

Kharroub shelling kills 2

BEIRUT (R) — Two civilians were killed and several wounded Sunday when Druze and rightist militias exchanged shellfire in the coastal Kharroub region 25 kilometres south of Beirut, security sources said. The fighting, between the mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and the right-wing Christian "Lebanese Forces," broke out around 9 a.m. (0700 GMT) and continued for most of the morning, they said. Twenty shells landed around the Christian-held village of Almani, just north of the Awali Bridge into Israeli-held South Lebanon, and others crashed around a string of nearby villages. The Kharroub front marks the furthest extent of the Druze advance westwards against the rightist militias in last September's mountain war.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
الرائية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الرائية"

U.S. denies Syrian claim

WASHINGTON (R) — The Pentagon Sunday denied a claim by Damascus that Syrian air defences had intercepted a U.S. warplane over northern Lebanon and forced the aircraft back towards the sea. A Pentagon spokesman dismissed the claim, the second Syria has made about its repelling of U.S. planes in the past 24 hours, as "the same as all the others." Damascus did not identify the plane and did not say what was meant by the word "intercepted." But the term "air defences" in Syrian military communications usually is taken to mean surface-to-air missiles. Since early September, U.S. planes have routinely flown reconnaissance missions over Syrian positions in Lebanon. The Pentagon spokesman said that although on three previous occasions pilots returning from missions have reported signs of Syrian anti-aircraft fire, there have been no such reports of Syrian fire or interceptor planes in the area the past two days.

Volume 8 Number 2425

AMMAN, MONDAY NOVEMBER 28, 1983 — SAFAR 23, 1404

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Kilbi, Fahd discuss summit

RIYADH (R) — Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Kilbi met King Fahd and other senior Saudi Arabian officials Sunday to discuss a new date for an Arab summit, officials said. Mr. Kilbi visited Algeria and North and South Yemen before coming here to try to work out a new date for an Arab summit. He is also due to visit other Arab countries. The summit, originally proposed for Riyadh later this month, was postponed due to Arab differences over the Lebanese crisis and the inter-Palestinian dispute.

Iraqi, Soviet officials confer

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's First Deputy Prime Minister Yassin Ramadan Sunday met the chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, Iakov Riapov, and discussed ways to develop relations between the two countries, the Iraqi News Agency reported. It quoted the two men as having expressed satisfaction at the "march of co-operation and developing relations between Iraq and the Soviet Union."

Iraq denies blast in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (R) — An official Iraqi source denied to the Iraqi News Agency (INA) that explosions had occurred Sunday in Baghdad. The source quoted by INA said any such events "did not take place in Baghdad today." In Paris, a French news agency said a Paris-based spokesman of the Islamic action organisation in Iraq had phoned to say a car loaded with 250 kilograms of explosives had driven into Baghdad police headquarters Sunday morning, causing heavy casualties.

Spain air crash third worst ever

MADRID (R) — The crash of a Colombian Airlines Boeing 747 in Spain Sunday was the third worst air accident involving a single jumbo jet. Nearly 180 people died in Sunday's disaster but the worst crash of Boeing 747 occurred last September when a Soviet fighter plane shot down a Korean Airlines jumbo over the Sea of Japan, killing all 269 people on board. An Air India Boeing 747 exploded in mid-air near Bombay on Jan. 1, 1978, killing 213 people. The world's worst aviation disaster was in Tenerife on March 27, 1977, when two jumbos collided on the runway, killing 582 people.

176 killed in Spain, page 8

Alia captain dies in car accident

AMMAN (J.T.) — Captain Fahd Saeed, an Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, crew member died here Sunday in a car accident near the Queen Alia International Airport. Capt. Saeed, who arrived from New York flying a regular Alia flight, met with the accident at a roundabout near the airport while driving home.

INSIDE

- Papandreou, Kyprianou at odds over how to handle Denktash, page 2
- Urban Development department awards low-cost housing contract, page 3
- Greek, Turkish envoys in Amman air views on Cyprus, page 4
- 'It is still a man's world' in the Middle East, page 5
- McEnroe aims to bag Australian Open title, page 6
- Border tension adds to Sudanese economic problems, page 7
- Air crash kills 176 in Spain, page 8

Moves on peace plan expected today

Palestinian rivals exchange shellfire

TRIPOLI, Lebanon (R) — Rival Palestinian factions exchanged artillery fire around this northern Lebanese port Sunday in the most serious outbreak of violence since a peace plan was announced on Friday.

Supporters of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Syrian-backed rebels traded about 20 shells in mid-afternoon following a morning of sniping along the front line on the northeastern outskirts of the city.

Security sources said three people were killed and at least four wounded in the shelling and sniping between pro- and anti-Arafat factions and their local allies.

Both sides were waiting for moves to implement the peace plan, which was announced in Damascus on Friday by the foreign ministers of Syria and Saudi Arabia.

Syria is the main backer of the rebels against Mr. Arafat's leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Saudi Arabia is the PLO's key financial supporter.

The plan, which is worded in vague terms, calls for Palestinian fighters to withdraw from the city and its environs, a permanent ceasefire and a resolution of the PLO split through dialogue.

The plan calls for Tripoli's elder statesman, former Prime Minister Rashid Karami, to work out details of the withdrawals through a coordination committee of local factions he heads.

Committee sources said about 18 members of the team would

leave for Damascus Monday to meet Mr. Karami and hear his views on implementing the plan.

Both sides have expressed support for the plan, though some rebel factions said they would not withdraw from two Palestinian refugee camps near Tripoli which they overran during three weeks of heavy fighting earlier this month. It was not clear if the proposals required them to do this.

Mr. Arafat's spokesman, Ahmad Abdulrahman, told reporters in Tripoli that the rebels would be allowed to remain in the camps if they accepted Mr. Arafat as the legitimate leader of the PLO.

The rebels, who have the PLO chairman and his men surrounded on three sides, have refused to consider withdrawing their forces from the Tripoli area, one of the conditions in the peace package. Mr. Arafat, defending his last stronghold in Lebanon, has accepted the Saudi-Syrian ideas in principle but on Saturday he declined to confirm that he would follow them through by taking part in direct talks with the rebels.

Political sources in Beirut said that unless Syria and Saudi Arabia acted soon to put their plan into practice the rebels might try to press home their military advantage.

Meanwhile, Mr. Arafat was quoted Sunday as saying Soviet arms earmarked for PLO forces had been confiscated with Syrian knowledge since last year's Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

In an interview published in the Cairo daily Al-Akhbar, the PLO chairman said: "We have not received any arms from Moscow since the invasion last year... all Soviet arms for the PLO have been confiscated with the knowledge of Syria." Mr. Arafat, interviewed in Tripoli, did not say who had confiscated the arms.

Benjedid backs Arafat

PARIS (R) — Algerian President Chadli Benjedid, deploring divisions in Arab ranks, has reaffirmed Algeria's support for Yasser Arafat as leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the Algerian news agency APS reported.

"The real strength of the enemy comes from weakness and disunity in Arab ranks," the agency, monitored in Paris, quoted him as saying Saturday night.

Addressing more than 1,000 former Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners released by Israel on Thursday, he said it was a tragedy for sons of the same revolution to fight each other.

"Algeria is on the side of the Palestinian revolution under the leadership of the PLO headed by its legitimate leaders, legitimately elected," he told the former prisoners at an Algiers barracks.

Iranian official to try mediation in Tripoli, page 2

Gemayel leaves for Italy, U.S.

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese President Amin Gemayel left for Rome Sunday at the start of a tour which will also take him to Washington for talks on the fate of the U.S.-sponsored Lebanese-Israeli troop withdrawal agreement.

Beirut has not yet ratified the May 17 agreement and many Lebanese politicians, especially Muslims and leftists, say they have grave doubts about the concessions it makes to Israel.

Mr. Gemayel is due to discuss the Middle East situation with Italian Socialist Prime Minister Bettino Craxi and Pope John Paul Monday before meeting President Sandro Pertini on Tuesday.

Mr. Pertini and Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti are currently on a state visit to Jordan.

A contingent of 2,200 Italian troops is serving with United States, French and British troops in a multinational force in Beirut.

Mr. Gemayel's meeting with President Reagan on Thursday is expected to pave the way for a second round of national reconciliation talks between Lebanon's main factional leaders.

A first round adjourned in Geneva earlier this month with the participants agreeing to meet again once Mr. Gemayel had made international contacts in search of other ways of persuading Israel to withdraw from South Lebanon.

Mr. Gemayel's trip to Washington will follow closely on a visit by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Israel and the United States have repeatedly said they are committed to the May 17 accord, though Washington is expected to seek some compromise when the Lebanese president arrives.

Syria and its Lebanese allies oppose the agreement on the grounds that it was signed under pressure and violates Lebanese sovereignty.

The accord gives Israel some normalisation of relations with Beirut and allows Israeli troops to conduct joint patrol with the Lebanese army north of their common border.

Prime Minister Shafiq Al-Waznan, a Sunni Muslim, was Saturday quoted as saying the agreement

was frozen and would be cancelled if Israel did not withdraw. At Geneva, even right-wing Christians said they had reservations about the deal but they opposed repudiating it until a better alternative was available.

Mr. Gemayel had planned to see Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad before going to Washington but sent Mr. Salem to see Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam instead because Mr. Assad has been ill for most of the last two weeks.

Lebanese officials said Mr. Salem's talks with Mr. Khaddam were positive and encouraging. He was the first Lebanese cabinet minister to visit Damascus since the May 17 agreement, which cast a shadow over relations between the two neighbours.

Mr. Gemayel has already visited France and Saudi Arabia as part of his consultations on the accord.

Wadie Haddad, his national security adviser, has gone to Washington early to prepare for the Lebanese-American summit.

Assad chaired party meeting, says SANA

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad Sunday presided over a meeting of the top body of his ruling Baath Party, the official Syrian news agency SANA said.

It said Mr. Assad chaired a meeting of the party's 16-man regional command, which includes leading government figures and party cadres.

Mr. Assad has not been seen in public since entering hospital two weeks ago, when Syrian officials said he was suffering from appendicitis. They said he underwent surgery and was making good progress.

There has been no official announcement that Mr. Assad left hospital.

The brief SANA dispatch did not say where Sunday's meeting was held.

The command reviewed the situation in Lebanon and other parts of the Arab World, "U.S.-Israeli threats" and Syria's readiness to meet them, it said.

Commonwealth calls for world peace, declares itself small nations' champion

PANAJI, Goa (R) — Commonwealth leaders, declaring the future of civilisation threatened, Sunday issued an impassioned plea for world peace and declared themselves particularly concerned over the safety of small nations.

The heads of government of the 48-member organisation made up of former British colonies issued what they designated as "the Goa Declaration on International Security" after a two-day break in this western Indian resort from this week-long summit in New Delhi.

The declaration said it was imperative that the United States and Soviet Union summoned up "the political vision of a world in which their nations can live in peace."

The leaders said that relationships between the world's major military alliances were in danger of becoming "more confrontational" and that with heightened tensions and a build-up in nuclear arms "the future of civilisation as we know it could be threatened."

The diverse nations of the

Commonwealth carefully avoided specific accusations against either of the superpowers, but said: "We are alarmed by increasing disregard for the moral and legal principles which should govern the conduct of states (and) by the degree to which the ethic of peaceful settlement of disputes is being eroded and by the readiness of nations to resort to the illegal use of force."

The declaration did not mention the U.S.-led invasion of Grenada which occupied a considerable part of the leaders' 11 hours of informal talks here. Commonwealth Secretary-General Shridath Ramphal told reporters the Grenada issue would be covered in the summit's closing communique on Tuesday.

The declaration said the superpowers' first objective must be to work for the resumption of "a genuine political dialogue between themselves leading to a relaxation of tensions."

The leaders said they believed Commonwealth governments

Israel braces for more protests

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli authorities in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip mobilised more troops Sunday to put down Palestinian demonstrations, military sources said.

Palestinians have demonstrated almost daily during the past month to protest fighting between rival Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) forces in Tripoli, Lebanon.

But only minor incidents were reported over the weekend and it appeared that last week's prisoner exchange between Israel and the PLO as well as the truce in Tripoli put a temporary halt to the protests.

Israeli settlers in the occupied territories had threatened "vigilante action" if the government did not take tougher measures to stop the demonstrations, which have often turned violent.

Israeli newspapers said such measures were agreed upon by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defence Minister Moshe Arens before their departure for Washington.

At the same time the Israeli authorities announced they had repealed an order issued on Nov. 2 closing Bethlehem's Catholic University for two months.

The closure order, issued after a violent clash between university students and troops, had been condemned by university authorities as unnecessarily severe.

Shamir off to Washington

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir left for Washington Sunday saying he hoped to tighten co-operation with the United States and would seek American help for the inflation-ravaged Israeli economy.

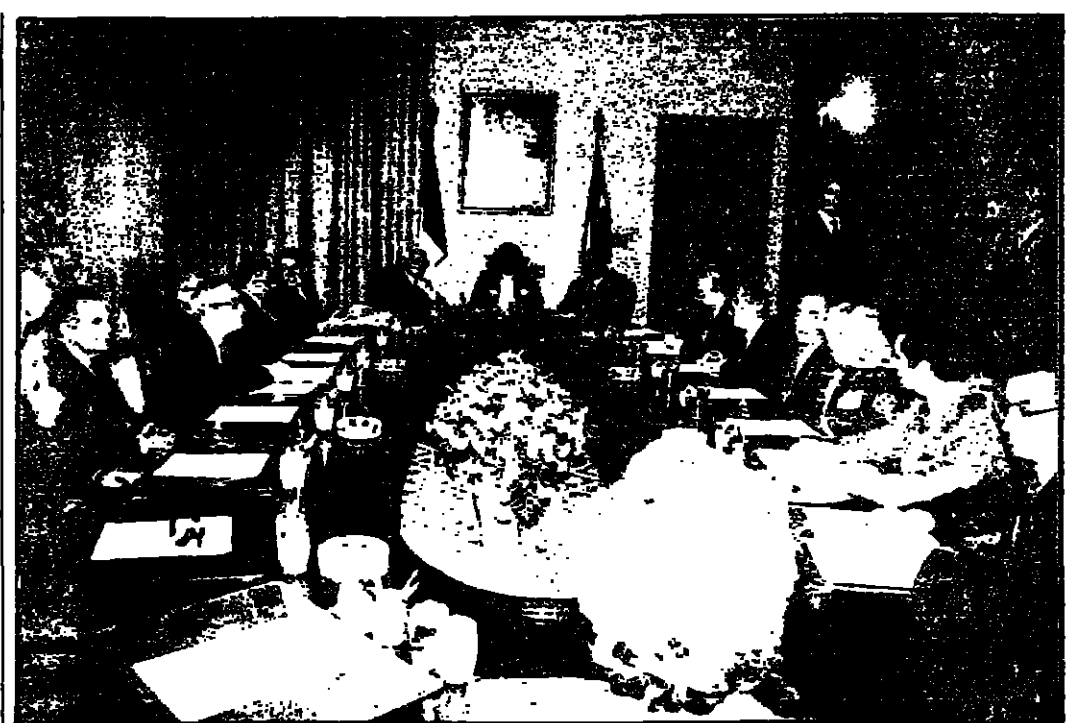
In a brief airport statement, Mr. Shamir said his discussions would be aimed at closer co-operation and co-ordination on Middle East issues.

Mr. Shamir, paying his first visit to Washington since becoming prime minister last month, said he would also talk about "practical ways to strengthen Israel's economy and to increase Israel's deterrent power."

Members of the "Parents Against Silence" group which opposes the continued Israeli occupation of South Lebanon staged a demonstration at the airport. They carried placards reading "Don't Bring Another War from the U.S."

Mr. Shamir was accompanied by Defence Minister Moshe Arens.

Israel, Syria playing a game of nerves, page 2



His Majesty King Hussein and Italian President Sandro Pertini head official delegations at talks Sunday on Middle East and international issues and bilateral relations (Petra photo)

Italy-Jordan aid, guarantee agreement signed

Hussein, Pertini discuss Mideast, bilateral links

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein and Italian President Sandro Pertini held three hours of talks covering various Middle East and international issues as Italy and Jordan signed an agreement under which Rome would provide the Kingdom with \$76 million in technical aid and commercial credit guarantees.

During his talks with President Pertini, the first Italian head of state to visit Jordan, King Hussein affirmed Jordan's keenness to bolster ties with Italy and promote bilateral co-operation in various fields, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra said.

The King also referred to the role Italy and the European Community can play in efforts for peace and stability in the Middle East, safeguarding the traditional links between Europe and the Arab World, Petra said.

The King and the Italian president also reviewed various aspects of the Palestine problem and the Jordanian leader explained to Mr. Pertini the suffering of the Palestinian people and the injustice that had been done to them by Israel's occupation of their homeland, Petra said.

Israel's policy of building Jewish settlements in occupied Arab lands and driving out their Palestinian population was also explained to President Pertini by the King, the agency said.

The King also reviewed the various initiatives proposed for Middle East peace and reaffirmed that an Arab plan formulated at an Arab summit in Fez, Morocco, in

September 1982, in compliance with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 242, calls for a total withdrawal of Israeli forces from Arab territories occupied in 1967 and guarantees the Palestinian people's right to their homeland, the agency added.

Commenting on the situation in Lebanon, the King said the current crisis in that country has been resulted from the Israeli invasion and called for the withdrawal of all Israeli forces from that country, restoring its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

On the 37-month-old Iran-Iraq war, the King pointed out that Iran's rejection of all peace initiatives is prolonging the conflict. President Pertini voiced appreciation of the welcome and hospitality accorded to him in Jordan and praised the King's role in promoting the cause of peace in the Middle East, Petra said.

Italy supports the establishment of a just Middle East peace which would ensure an end to occupation of land by force and enable the Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate rights, including self-determination, President Pertini said.

The King's meeting with the Italian president was attended by His Highness Prince Mohammad, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Ahmad Al-Lawzi, Court Minister Amer Khammash, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Foreign Minister Marwan Al-Qasbi, and National Planning Council (NPC).

President Hanna Odch, Italy was represented at the talks by Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti and the official delegation accompanying President Pertini.

Aid agreement signed

Under the agreement signed Sunday between Jordan and Italy at the NPC, Rome grants \$10 million in technical aid to help carry out development projects in the Kingdom, particularly in agriculture, water, health, education, energy and natural resources.

It also provides for \$16 million to be allocated partly for the thermal power station in Aqaba currently under construction, a centre for testing high-tension insulators being set up by the Jordan Electricity Authority in co-operation with the Italian company, Enel, and the construction of a nursery for fruit-bearing trees and a printing press for the Ministry of Education.

In addition, the agreement also provides for \$50 million in commercial credit guarantees, which Italy will undertake to help Jordan develop its agricultural, water supply and educational projects.

The agreement was signed by Mr. Andreotti on behalf of Italy and NPC President Odch signed it for Jordan. Mr. Andreotti, who arrived with President Pertini Saturday, later left Amman.

Pertini tours Jordan, page 2

Spaniards remember late dictator

MADRID (R) — Tens of thousands of Spaniards marched through Madrid Sunday to mark the eighth anniversary of the death of dictator Francisco Franco, in the biggest right-wing rally since the socialists took power a year ago.

After a silent march along Madrid's main Castellana Boulevard, the demonstrators gathered in front of a statue of Franco to sing fascist hymns while giving the stiff-arm salute used by the late general during his 40-year rule.

Elderly matrons with red and yellow Spanish flags pinned on their fur coats and decorated veterans of the victorious Franco forces in the 1936-39 civil war marched alongside teenage girls wearing fashionable sportswear in the national colours and youths in fascist Falange Party blue shirts and combat boots.

Some chanted slogans calling for an army takeover and the release of military plotters jailed for an abortive 1981 coup attempt but there were no incidents. Security was discreet, with no riot police in sight of the marchers, few patrol cars but two police helicopters circling above.

The rally was originally called for last Sunday's anniversary of Franco's death on Nov. 20, 1975.

Cruise missile parts arrive at Italian site

ROME (R) — Italy's Defence Ministry said Sunday parts for new U.S. cruise nuclear missiles had arrived in Sicily, a day after Prime Minister Bettino Craxi received a Soviet message the Italian media described as threatening.

"The arrival of components for the missile arms systems due to be transported and subsequently assembled at Comiso has begun at the base of Sigonella," a ministry statement said.

Comiso is due to get 112 cruise missiles. Italy's quota of 572 new nuclear missiles to be deployed in five NATO countries from next month if Geneva talks on limiting medium-range missiles fail. The Soviet Union walked out of the talks on Wednesday.

Sunday's ministry statement, repeating what the government had already told parliament, said the first systems were expected to be operational by next March.

The announcement came less than 24 hours after Mr. Craxi's office published details of his response to a sharp message from Soviet leader Yuri Andropov warning Italy against deploying the missiles.

In his personal message to Mr. Craxi, Mr. Andropov expressed regret that the Italian government had decided, in a parliamentary vote on Nov. 16, to go ahead with deploying the missiles.

Mr. Andropov said this was a conscious move to heighten nuclear tension and the military threat.

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MIDDLE EAST

Greece, Cyprus divided on how to handle Denktash

By Nicosias Tzallas
Reporter

ATHENS — For the first time in years, Greece and Cyprus seem divided over how to handle the Cyprus question.

The apparent rift, coming as the issue enters a crucial phase following this month's Turkish-Cypriot declaration of independence, stemmed from remarks by Cyprus President Spyros Kyprianou in which he seemed to favour talks among Greece, Turkey and Britain — the guarantors of Cypriot independence.

Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu, who had earlier specifically rejected tripartite talks, said Saturday he was deeply grieved that Mr. Kyprianou regarded all three guarantors as equal in their positions towards the Cypriot national question.

NEWS ANALYSIS

riot national question.

Britain suggested tripartite consultations immediately after Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash proclaimed a separate state in the Turkish-held northern part of the island on Nov. 15.

Mr. Kyprianou, who is in India for the Commonwealth summit, has denied that he insisted all three powers meet round the same table, but confirmed that he stressed to the summit the responsibilities of the three countries.

Mr. Papandreu's statement marked a dramatic change from a long-standing tradition under which all talks between Cyprus and Greece, which attaches great symbolic importance to harmony with Nicosia, were secret and ended with a routine statement proclaiming an identity of views.

In a statement that suggested



Andreas Papandreu

anger at Mr. Kyprianou. Premier Papandreu said he would agree to tripartite talks if that was what Nicosia really wanted and called on the Cypriot leader to clarify his position publicly.

Mr. Papandreu said he was upset that Mr. Kyprianou seemed to be ignoring the close ethnic ties between Athens and Nicosia and Greek efforts to lobby for the Greek-Cypriot cause.

Greek commentators said that unless the rift was healed quickly it could seriously damage diplomatic efforts by both Greeks and Greek-Cypriots to get the Denktash action reversed.

Greece has been campaigning for support among its European community and NATO partners, while Cyprus has been active in the Non-Aligned Movement and the Commonwealth.

Possible explanation

The commentators said one possible explanation for Athens' sudden flexibility over tripartite talks was that it had second thoughts about the reasons behind its initial rejection of the British proposal.

If that explanation proved correct, Greece might have seized on vague statements by Mr. Kyprianou about the guarantor powers and interpreted them as being

harder than he had intended. Cyprus, together with Greece and Turkey agreed to guarantee Cypriot independence and territorial integrity under a 1960 treaty.

Commentators said Athens might have concluded that, by challenging Turkey to talks on the basis of the 1960 accord, it could force Ankara to say its military occupation of northern Cyprus and Mr. Denktash's proclamation were illegal.

Mr. Kyprianou, in an apparent attempt to put the onus back on Athens, said in his latest statement through a spokesman in Nicosia that it was up to Greece to decide whether to start talks with the two other guarantors.

The Cypriot leader, apparently astonished by Mr. Papandreu's public criticism, said he did not consider it desirable for Greece and Cyprus to discuss the matter in the open.

Thatcher and Kyprianou

The usually well-informed pro-government newspaper To Vima said in Athens Sunday that Mr. Kyprianou and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had discussed a new plan for the settlement of the Cyprus issue while attending the Commonwealth meeting.

According to To Vima, the plan provides for progressive withdrawal of Turkish forces from northern Cyprus, abolition of the Greek-Cypriot national guard and deployment of West European peace-keeping troops.

Commentators said that both the tripartite formula and the reported British ideas would prompt an outcry from opposition parties in both Greece and Cyprus.

Both the Greek and Cypriot Communist Parties oppose the tripartite framework, favouring instead the Soviet Union's pro-



Spyros Kyprianou

posal for a wide-ranging international conference on Cyprus.

Mr. Kyprianou's government depends for survival on communist support and Mr. Papandreu is vulnerable to any breakdown of the tacit moratorium existing between his Socialist Party and the Moscow-line Greek communists who control many trade unions and could instigate strikes at a time of economic crisis.

Although it was a conservative Greek government which signed the 1960 agreement, conservative parties in both Greece and Cyprus might be tempted to exploit Athens' apparent change of mind over tripartite talks and allege inconsistent handling of the national issue.

A breakdown of the fragile consensus over the national question that exists between government and opposition in both Athens and Nicosia could deal another heavy blow to Greek and Greek-Cypriot diplomatic efforts to promote their cause, commentators said.

The last major public rift between Athens and Nicosia was in 1974 when Greece's then right-wing military junta organised a coup and briefly ousted President Makarios.

It was this coup which led to the Turkish invasion of the island and the subsequent occupation of northern Cyprus by Turkish troops.

Breakaway Armenian leader says future targets will be Turkish

PARIS (R) — A dissident Armenian guerrilla chief was quoted Sunday as opposing indiscriminate violence like a bomb which killed eight people and injured 54 at a Paris airport last July.

The dissident, Monte Melkonian, said in an interview with a French weekly news magazine, Le Point, that the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA) would attack only Turkish targets in future, mainly in Turkey.

Le Point said Mr. Melkonian was one of the heads of ASALA's revolutionary movement, which split from ASALA and its leader, Agop Agopian, in protest over the Orly bomb, for which ASALA claimed responsibility.

The magazine said 80 per cent of ASALA activists backed the new group. They intend to ally themselves with liberation movements in Turkey and Kurdistan.

Mr. Melkonian said.

He said Mr. Agopian was a dictator who ordered the Orly blast without consulting colleagues.

"The people who died at Orly are to us innocent dead," Mr. Melkonian said. "They are detrimental to our cause. We will never carry out a similar attack."

He said whether his group would strike in France, which has a big Armenian community, depended on French policy towards Turkey.

Le Point did not say where the interview was held. It said his group was based in the Middle East but not in Beirut. ASALA's headquarters until last year.

Mr. Melkonian, alias Dimitriou Georghiu, was briefly arrested at Orly in November 1981.

The guerrillas want Turkey to admit it massacred 1.5 million Armenians in World War I, which Turkey denies.

Iranian official goes to mediate in Tripoli

TEHRAN (R) — An Iranian foreign ministry official has gone to Tripoli, north Lebanon, to help resolve the conflict between Palestinian factions, the Iranian national news agency IRNA reported.

It said the director-general in charge of Afro-Asian affairs in the Iranian foreign ministry, Hossein Lavasani, travelled Saturday from Damascus to Tripoli, scene of fierce fighting in recent weeks between supporters and opponents of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman Yasser Arafat.

IRNA said Mr. Lavasani headed a delegation which would "attempt to resolve the inter-ethnic fighting within the PLO which is wasting the Muslim Pal-

estinian and Lebanese forces and weakening the resistance movement."

Mr. Lavasani went to Damascus on Friday with Mostafa Mirsalim, a close adviser of Iranian President Ali Khamenei.

IRNA said Mr. Mirsalim discussed the Palestinian fighting with Syrian Foreign Minister Abdel-Halim Khaddam Saturday. Iran is not reported to have tried to mediate between the PLO factions before. When the revolt against Mr. Arafat began last May, Iran appeared to share Syria's sympathy for the rebels.

Palestinian rebel leader Saeed Moussa, known as Abu Musa, was quoted by the monthly magazine the Middle East as saying Iran was giving his movement money.

But recently the tone of Iranian comments has changed.

A week ago, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati urged a quick end to the conflict in the PLO saying: "Any kind of clashes among Palestinian forces are regrettable."

The well-informed daily newspaper Islamic Republic, which earlier showed sympathy for the anti-Arafat forces, commented this month that future developments would show the rebel faction "carries no distinctive difference to the present spectrum of the PLO's leaders."

A ceasefire has been declared between the warring sides in Tripoli and all Palestinian guerrillas are supposed to withdraw from the city over the next two weeks under a peace plan drawn up by Syria and Saudi Arabia.

3 Japanese tankers wait near mouth of Gulf

BAHRAIN (R) — Three Japanese super-tankers are standing by near the mouth of the Gulf until the Japan seamen's union and shipping companies decide it is safe for them to head for Kharg Island to load Iranian crude oil, industry sources said Sunday.

The cautious approach to entering northern Gulf waters follows the sinking of two large Greek cargo ships by Iraq this month in its 34-month-old war with Iran.

Two days ago, the Japan seamen's union said it had told owners of Japanese tankers going to Kharg Island to make them wait at Sirri Island, at the southeast end of the Gulf, until their safety was assured.

The industry sources said the three tankers now waiting at Sirri Island were the Shinwa Shipping Company's Shinwa Maru of 250,000 deadweight tonnes (DWT), the Kyoei Tanker Company's Kyoei Maru of 210,000 DWT and the Panamanian-registered World Brigadier of 231,000 DWT under charter to the Japan line.

The seamen's union, in agreement with the Japanese shipowners association, banned the loading of oil from Kharg Island at the northern end of the Gulf because of war risks between July 1982 and March this year.

After the sinking of 2 Greek freighters recently, Baghdad has threatened further attacks on shipping.

Figures for August show that of this total, just over two million BPD passed through the Strait of Hormuz, with the balance coming from Oman outside the Gulf.

Industry sources said 95 per cent of Japan's oil imports from Iran of around 200,000 BPD were loaded at Kharg Island, and the other five per cent from the port of Bandar Abbas on the northern coast of the Strait itself.

Japan required about 10 tankers a month to shift Iranian crude, the sources added. Last August, official figures showed it also imported around 960,000 BPD from Saudi Arabia, 522,000 from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), 279,000 from Qatar and a small amount from Kuwait itself.

They estimated the current overall movement of oil through the Strait of Hormuz at between eight and nine million BPD, of which about half went to developed industrialised nations, including Japan.

Cairo zoo animals feel many urban frustrations

CAIRO (R) — Fridays are no rest days for the animals of the Cairo zoo visited on the weekly holiday by an average 20,000 people, some beating drums or blowing trumpets and others throwing lighted cigarettes inside the cages.

The keepers try hard to protect the animals from being harassed by young and not-so-young visitors, but zoo director Saad Badrawi admits he is helpless.

"What can we do? We cannot fine them. It would need a cabinet decree," he said in an interview. The lion-keeper said he caught a young woman opening and shutting an umbrella in the face of one of his charges.

Recently, a bear stripped the blouse from another woman who was posing for a photograph beside its cage. The keeper gave her his shirt.

Children throw lighted cigarettes wrapped in foil in the cages and laugh as the animals get burnt looking for food.

"We expect incidents every day. We treat about 100 children for hand injuries every year," Badrawi told Reuters.

The zoo, in the Cairo suburb of Giza, home of the great pyramids, was founded in 1891 and has 610 mammals of 90 species, 2,000 reptiles and 90-year-old vultures.

Mr. Badrawi said he was specially proud the zoo kept baluchistan rexes — rare Sudanese

white-headed storks — for 20 years. The last one died last year. Following the example of Pharaonic rulers of ancient Egypt, animals that die are mummified and kept in the zoo museum.

The mummies of three penguins share space with the remains of a crocodile said to have been mummified 3,000 years ago.

Mr. Badrawi said Egypt bought animals from African dealers in Zambia, Tanzania and Kenya and had exchanges with zoos in the Netherlands, Denmark and Yugoslavia.

Entry to the government-run Zoo costs only 10 piastres (about 10 cents). It is Cairo's "only thing for the working class," said Mr. Badrawi in a reference to the poverty and 3,000 trees in the heart of the city.

The din of nearby construction work adds to stresses that bring down the birthrate among animals, particularly birds.

Despite all this, Mr. Badrawi said, a chimpanzee gave birth in captivity this year and the baby is now 10-month-old.

"And the death rate among the animals is very low. It does not exceed five per cent a year," the zoo director added.

The zoo supervises seven reserves in Egypt to preserve rare species such as the Egyptian deer, zebra and Sinai wild cat.

Israeli, Syrian troops play game of nerves

By Ethan Bronner

BAKEH, Lebanon (R) — Israeli and Syrian soldiers stare at each other across a 200-metre vale in this rugged region of eastern Lebanon.

On a hilltop, a unit of Israelis, take turns manning rapid-fire Browning .05 machine guns and long-distance binoculars through which they monitor the movements and equipment of their adversaries, who sit about three kilometres this side of the official Lebanese-Syrian border.

"The positions of both armies is one of readiness for immediate combat," the Israeli commanding officer of the region, who gave his name as Col. Yitzhak, told a small group of journalists visiting Israeli front-line positions.

Israeli estimates of Syrian troop

strength in Lebanon put their numbers at 50,000 while foreign estimates of Israeli strength are less than half that number.

The colonel said the front had been quiet for several months with no exchanges of fire. The Israelis are preparing for the long harsh winter, their second since Israel invaded Lebanon in June 1982 and challenged the presence of Syrian and Palestinian forces here.

Israelis build roads

Snow already covers the peaks, and the Israelis are rushing to pave roads they have built for access to the highlands and to move up food, ammunition and heating fuel for their troops.

Col. Yitzhak said recent Israeli air force raids over Lebanon had caused increased tension on the

Syrian side but the nervousness had so far not been translated into action.

"We're not interested in opening fire and they're not either," said Shimon, an Israeli reservist. "It's too dangerous for both sides."

The Israelis' major concern at the moment is guerrilla raids by Palestinian or Shi'ite groups, such as the recent suicide bombings on American and French troops in Beirut and on Israelis in Tyre.

All Israeli encampments here now have powerful tanks blocking their entrances and many of the roads have huge yellow blocks of concrete in zigzag formation to prevent vehicles packed with explosives from crashing through any barriers.

Col. Yitzhak said some of the local population were helping

guerrillas.

"The activity of terrorists in this area seems to be part of a campaign to show that despite the fighting in Tripoli, the Palestinians are still at war with Israel," he said.

Col. Yitzhak said there was no doubt that the guerrillas were getting protection and help from the Syrians since they came across Syrian lines.

No winter gear

The Israelis who watch the Syrians day in and day out from these hills say their adversaries are ill-prepared for the winter, as they were last year.

They said they saw Syrians who had frozen to death last winter taken away on stretchers and also had clear indications of rebellion by Syrian soldiers, seen through

binoculars pushing and fighting with their officers.

All the mutual watching has produced a certain melting of enmity and some human contact. At times the soldiers shout greetings and exchange names across the front.

The Israeli soldiers here, including reservists on one-month tours of duty, look well equipped for the winter, when temperatures stay well below freezing.

They have large supplies of diesel fuel, bunk beds, tanks of water, crates of food, plumbing, even television, video and books. Their uniforms include hoods, gloves and thermal overalls.

They live in earth-covered metal bunkers so the effect is that of a cave, with small chimneys rising from the hills for the burnt diesel fumes to escape.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

17:30 Koran
17:50 Children's Programme
18:10 Children's programme
18:30 Start Here
18:50 The Impossible Target
19:10 Programmes review
19:30 Programme on the Armed Forces
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Local Programme
21:00 News in English
21:30 Arabic Variety
22:10 News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 Comedy: Benson
21:10 Nancy Astor
21:30 News in English
22:15 The A Team

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM
parly on 9500 KHz. SW

07:00 Morning Show
07:30 News Bulletin
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 Pop Session
09:00 News Summary
09:30 Sports Round-up
10:00 Animal, Vegetable, Mineral
10:30 News Summary
11:00 Pop Session
11:30 News Summary
12:00 News Bulletin
12:30 Over a Cup of Tea
13:00 Concert Hour
13:30 News Summary
14:00 Instrumentals, Old Favourites
14:30 Pop Session
15:00 News Summary
15:30 Sports Round-up
16:00 News Bulletin
16:30 Instrumentals
17:00 Over a Cup of Tea
17:30 Concert Hour
18:00 News Summary
18:30 Sports Round-up
19:00 Animal, Vegetable, Mineral
19:30 News Summary
20:00 Pop Session
20:30 News Summary
21:00 News Bulletin
21:30 Instrumentals
22:00 News Summary
22:30 Sports Round-up
23:00 News Bulletin
23:30 Instrumentals
24:00 News Summary

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz
06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Clinging to the

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

06:45 Letter from London
06:50 Reflections 07:00 World News
07:10 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
07:30 Picking up Blunders 07:45
At Home With 08:00 Newsdesk
08:30 Baker's Half Dozen 09:00 News
News Summary 09:30 Sarah and Company
10:00 World News 10:30 Reflections
10:45 Viennese Nights 11:00 Anything
Goes 11:30 World News 11:50 British
Press Review 12:15 Waveguide 12:25
Good Books 12:40 News Ahead 12:45
Music Now 12:55 Short Story 12:59
Rock Solid 13:00 World News 13:09
News About Britain 13:15 In Patagonia
13:30 Sir Adrian Boult: A Life of Music
14:00 Radio News 14:15 Quiz
Unqueto 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00
World News 15:09 Twenty-Four Hours:
News Summary 15:30 Country Style
15:45 India: A Cerephony of Cultures
16:30 Musical Milestones 17:00 Radio
Newsdesk 17:15 Outlook 18:00 World
News 18:09 Commentator 18:15 Hot Air
18:30 Coast to Coast 18:45 The World
Today 19:00 World News 19:09 Choice
Choice 19:15 My Music 19:45 Sports
Round-up 20:00 Newsdesk 20:30 Thous-
and Days of John F. Kennedy 21:00
Outlook 21:30 Stock Market Report
21:43 Look Ahead 21:45 Poshies' Choice
22:00 World News 22:09 Twenty-
Four Hours: News Summary 22:30
Sports International 23:00 Network
U.K. 23:15 In Patagonia 23:30 Rock
Solid 24:00 World News 06:00 The
World Today 06:25 Book Choice 06:30
Financial News 06:40 Reflections 06:45
Sports Round-up 06:50 World News
06:59 Commentary 30:15 Hot Air
01:30 Quiz, Unqueto

VOICE OF AMERICA

1260, 5965, 7200, 15205, 11725 KHz

06:00 The Breakfast Show: News, Infor-
mation, Presentation of Popular Music,
with Feature Reports, Interviews, Answer-
s to Listeners' Questions, Science
Digest, News Summary at 30 minutes
past the hour, 17:30 News 17:45 News-
line 17:50 Special English News 18:30
Music USA standards 19:00 News 19:10
Newsline 19:30 Special English News
and Features 20:00 News 20:10 Focus
20:30 Music USA standards 21:00 News-
line 21:30 Magazine Show 22:00 News
and Editorial 22:15 Music USA Jazz
23:00 VOA World Report

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* Paintings by Princess Fahrelnissa Zeid
at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* Paintings by Omar Boual and Faisal
Ashour at the Irbid Youth Centre.

FILM

* "Modern Times" by Charlie Chaplin
at the American Centre at 8:00 p.m.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre - Tel. 6610267
American Centre - 44371
American Centre Library - 41520
British Council - 36147-4
French Cultural Centre - 37009
Goethe Institute - 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre - 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre - 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre - 39777
Hays Arts Centre - 665195
Hussein Youth City - 667181
Y.W.C.A. - 41793
Y.W.M.C.A. - 664251
Amman Municipal Library - 36111
University of Jordan Library - 843555

MUSEUMS

Polk Museum: Jewellery and costumes
over 100 years old. Also mosaics from
Machaba and Jerash (4th to 18th
centuries). The Roman Theatre.
Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5
p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an
excellent collection of the antiquities of
Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Chapel Hill).
Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
(Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m.
- 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a col-
lection of paintings, ceramics, and sculp-
ture by contemporary Islamic artists
from most of the Muslim countries and a
collection of paintings by 19th century
orientalist artists. Mustashar, Jabal
Luwaihi. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m.
- 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 50128.

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FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

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ARRIVALS

07:00 Cairo (EA)
09:05 Agaba (RJ)
09:15 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:30 Jeddah (RJ)
09:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
09:55 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
10:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:15 Beirut (RJ)
10:30 Muscat, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Bah-
rain (CA)
13:00 Moscow (SU)
14:00 Belgrade, Istanbul (JU)
14:15 Kuwait (KAC)
15:00 Jeddah, Medina (SV)
16:30 Bangkok (SR)
17:45 Athens (RJ)
17:15 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:30 Cairo (RJ)
18:30 Beirut (MEA)
18:45 Amsterdam, Athens (KLM)
19:05 Cairo (EA)
20:10 Tunis, Cairo (TU)
20:40

NEWS IN BRIEF

Soviet press team expected to visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Soviet press delegation is due here Monday on a visit to Jordan which is expected to last for several days at the invitation of the Jordan Journalists Association. The delegation will hold discussions with the association board and visit newspapers and information institutions in Jordan.

Education delegation heads for U.S.

AMMAN (J.T.) — An educational delegation left for Washington Saturday to hold discussions with the World Bank on financing Jordan's sixth educational project. The delegation was led by Ministry of Education Secretary-General Abdul Latif Arabiat.

Councils to receive more loans

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cities and Villages Development Bank has decided to grant 15 village and municipal councils a total of JD 331,115 in loans. The loans will be used to finance the construction of new roads, the building of a girls' school, and new municipality building, the landscaping of park and other projects.

Administrative courses begin at U of J

AMMAN (Petra) — Two training courses on accounting and executive secretarial work opened Sunday at the University of Jordan. Participants in the eight-week courses will hear lectures and receive practical exercises on educational aids with the purpose of improving the efficiency of the university staff.

Nabulsi leaves for U.N. housing team meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Housing Corporation Director Hamdullah Nabulsi left Amman Sunday for Nairobi to take part in a meeting of a committee of specialists for-

med by the U.N. Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS). The committee comprises members from Jordan, West Germany, the Soviet Union, Colombia, Gabon, Indonesia, India and Japan.

Its members will discuss in their week-long meeting the preparation of housing programmes and a general settlement policy for governments to be submitted to the next UNCHS meeting to be held in Gabon next year.

The eight-member committee will also assess several housing projects undertaken by a number of countries.

Representation on the committee is chosen on geographical basis.



Hamdullah Nabulsi

Duweik's versatility captures nature's beauty

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As a sort of happy coincidence two of Jordan's most established artists have exhibited one after the other — as Ahmad Nawash took down his paintings at the French Cultural Centre, Yasser Duweik opened at the Alia Art Gallery. It gave a rare chance to compare their work and how very different they are. Duweik is a much more easy going artist and as the exhibition shows he has never really stuck. As Nawash has done, to one particular theme or mode of expression. He moves easily from impressionistic landscapes to abstract and figurative prints, executing them all convincingly as, like Nawash, Duweik is technically very adept.

Infallible sense of colour

These latter talents all come together in the artist's depictions of Al Azrak, Dibbeen, Zay and Ajloun, corners of his own native countryside caught in their springtime magnificence. There is

Duweik's small etchings, particularly "Saleswoman" — which shows the traditionally dressed woman, basket on head, starting her long journey through the labyrinth of arched doorways between high old walls — are also attractive and well-crafted. The painting from which "Saleswoman" has been taken is in a private collection and, although it dates from an older period in Duweik's work and one in which his figures were much more impressionistic. It still has the ability to inspire everyone who sees it. His later portrait work is much more literal and unfortunately as such just not of the same calibre. In fact the difference in quality between paintings like "Three Faces" and landscapes like "Dibbeen" at this present exhibition is so great that one would think two different artists painted them and perhaps they should not have been included in what is otherwise a very good body of work.

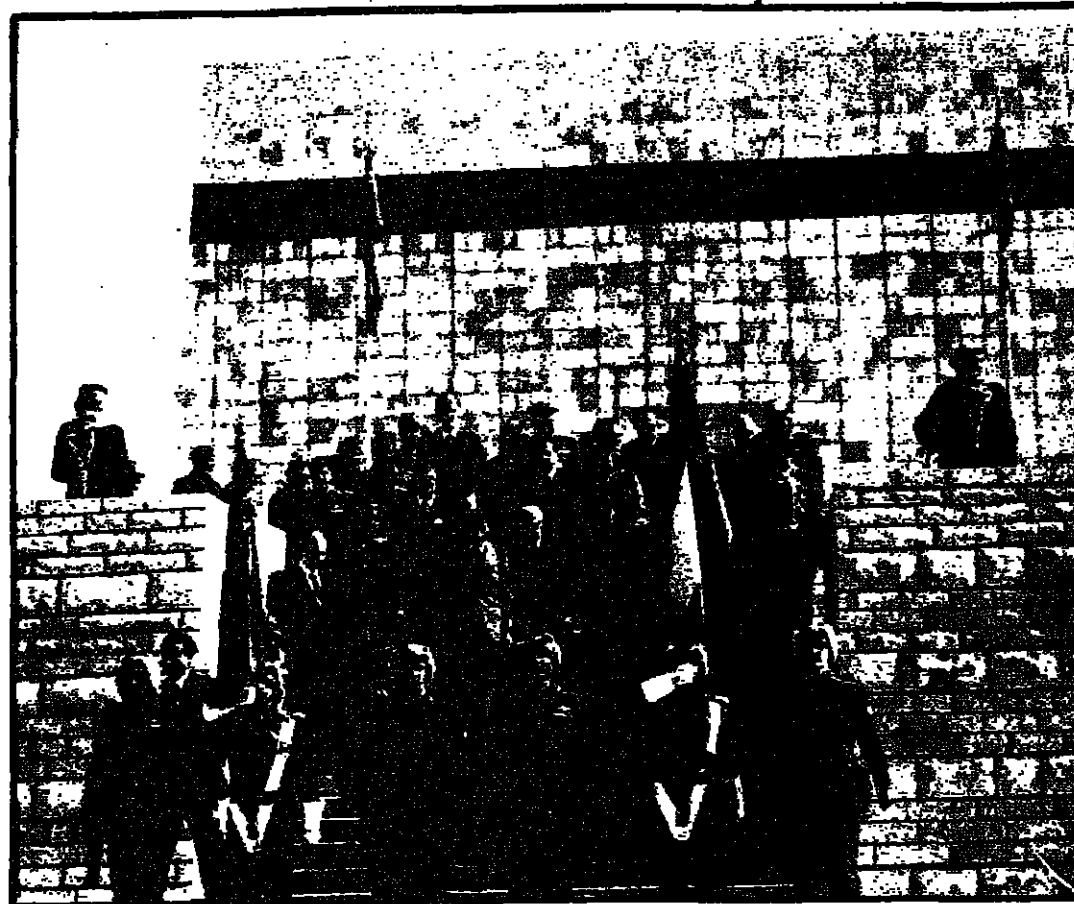
The paintings and prints are all for sale, prices ranging from JD30 to JD450. The exhibition runs until the end of the month.

ART REVIEW

nothing very new or original about these paintings, their appeal lies simply in the fact that they are attractive compositions painted carefully and extremely well with an infallible sense of colour that captures and combines nature's myriad of greens. One landscape however and one that is a great favourite of mine is an original. It is "Horizons" and here Duweik captures to perfection in sweeping strokes of the knife the endlessness of the flat spring touched desert under a vast slanting sky of evening pinks.

Dynamically gridded texture

Forming a very interesting series are Duweik's relief prints, which employ the recurring motif of the sun threatened by gathering darkness which reaches up to it in sinuous tentacles from below or condenses in on it decreasing and stifling circles. Duweik has used pieces of loosely woven fabric, like hessian, to give a rough, yet dynamically gridded texture to his work, which is at times very effective.



The Italian President Sandro Pertini Sunday leaves the Martyrs Monument after watering the tree of life and seeing the museum's exhibits (Petra photo)

Arab paper industry future discussed

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Union of Paper Industries (AUPI) opened a two-day meeting here Sunday to discuss ways of developing the Arab paper industry and the establishment of new paper industries in Arab countries.

Addressing the meeting, which is being attended by representatives from nine Arab Nations, the AUPI board director, Belqasem Al Washtati, said that the Arab World's annual imports of paper amounted to 1.5 million tonnes and each Arab individual uses some nine kilograms of paper every year.

The situation calls for the development of the paper industry in the Arab World and it is advisable to copy the system used in the European Community, Mr. Washtati said.

He continued by saying that the AUPI is in the process of establishing an Arab company for marketing the Arab World's



Director of the Arab Union of Paper Industries Belqasem Al Washtati opens Sunday a two-day meeting of the union here (Petra photo)

paper products to protect Arab markets from foreign competition and to facilitate the flow of paper products among Arab countries.

The AUPI, which was established by the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) 1976, plans to conduct a study on the types of paper used for newspapers, printing and other purposes throughout the Arab World, Mr. Washtati added.

In his address he also reviewed AUPI future programmes.

Countries represented at the meeting are Jordan, Algeria, Libya, Tunisia, Kuwait, Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine and Sudan.



Acting director of the Royal Scientific Society Fakhreddin Al Daghestani (second from right) Sunday signs an agreement with the Islamic Institution for Science, Technology and Development whose Director-General Ali Kittani is seated next to him (Petra photo)

Islamic body signs technology accord

AMMAN (Petra) — An agreement for technological and scientific cooperation was signed Sunday between the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and the Jeddah-based Islamic Institution for Science, Technology and Development with the aim of increasing the RSS's contribution to strengthening scientific and technological cooperation among Islamic countries.

The agreement provides for the

holding of conferences and seminars to develop science and technology in Islamic countries, the arranging of joint research programmes between member states and the execution of the results of this research in the Islamic world.

The agreement was signed for the RSS by its acting director, Dr. Fakhreddin Al Daghestani, and for the Islamic institution by its director-general, Dr. Ali Kittani.

The Islamic institution was established in 1981 by the Organisation of Islamic Conference with the aim of encouraging scientific research among Islamic countries.

It also aims at providing consultancy services and scientific studies to organisations and countries of the Islamic conference.

Pertini visits monument

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein and Italian President Sandro Pertini were Sunday guests of honour at a luncheon given by Prime Minister Mudar Badran at the Amra Hotel here.

The banquet was attended by His Highness Prince Mohammad, Chief of the Royal Court Ahmad Al Lawzi, Speaker of the Upper House Ahmad Al Tarawneh, National Consultative Council Speaker Suleiman Arar, Court Minister Amer Khammash, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lt-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Islamic Chief Justice Sheikh Ibrahim Al Qattan, the Dean of the diplomatic corps in Jordan, ambassadors from the European Community nations in Jordan and other senior officials.

It was also attended by the delegation accompanying the Italian president to Jordan.

Earlier on in the day, the Italian president Sunday called at the Martyr's Monument to the west of here and inspected its exhibition of photographs and the weapons museum.

Accompanied by Court Minister Amer Khammash and other officials, the president Pertini was

met upon his arrival by Sharif Zaid and senior army officers.

The president reviewed a guard of honour while an army band played military marches.

The president then toured the various sections of the monument which represents various aspects of Jordan's history since 1916, the date of the Great Arab Revolt.

Mr. Pertini also watered the tree of life outside the monument and signed his name in the visitors' register.

The Armed Forces commander-in-chief presented the visitor with a gift on the occasion of his visit.

Later on Her Majesty Queen Noor accompanied President Pertini to the ancient Roman city of Jerash.

During the visit, Mr. Pertini was briefed on the town's history, temples and forums by the director of the Department of Antiquities, Dr. Adnan Al Hadidi.

President Pertini toured the town and visited the Artemis Steps, the Forum, the temple of

Zeus and the Colonnade.

Accompanying the Queen and her guest were Tourism Minister Ma'an Abu Nowar, Jerash district governor and the delegation accompanying the Italian president.

That evening the president, in the company of Queen Noor and His Majesty King Hussein, attended a special performance given by the La Scala ballet company of Milan.

After the show, which was also attended by Mr. Badran, the King presented the performers with the Istiglal (Independence) Medal of the First Order.

Andreotti leaves

Meanwhile, Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti Sunday called at the Queen Alia Society for the Hearing-Impaired where he inspected the centre's facilities and heard a briefing by Mrs. Hanan Touqan, the centre's director.

The centre was established last year in cooperation with the Italian government.

Later Mr. Andreotti left Amman for home and was seen off at the airport by Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem and other officials.



Directors from the Civil Engineering Company sign a JD 3 million contract Sunday to build low cost housing for the Urban Development Department, on behalf of whom the mayor of Amman, Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh (third from right) initialled the agreement (Petra photo)

UDD awards cheap housing contract

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — A local construction company the Civil Engineering Company (CEC) Sunday signed a JD 3 million contract with the Urban Development Department (UDD) for the construction of housing in the Quweismeh district of Amman for low-income families.

UDD Director Hisham Al Zagha told the Jordan Times that the project entails the building of 704 core houses (that is small size homes) on a 368-dunum land.

Originally the land was divided into 1,184 plots but only 704 will be used for construction while the rest will be used for infrastructure and community building work, Dr. Zagha said.

The services to be made available under the housing project, he said, will include sewers, electricity, roads, a car park, footpaths and green areas in addition to a shopping area and workshops.

The houses are relatively small and suit the low income families.

but these can be expanded both on the ground and vertically in the future if the beneficiaries so wish, Dr. Zagha added.

According to Dr. Zagha, the UDD will announce a tender in two months time for the implementation of the community services and infrastructure work.

These will include two schools for boys and girls, a clinic, two community centres, a vocational training centre for boys and another for girls, Dr. Zagha said.

The project will be financed through two loans by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Housing Bank, he said.

The contract was signed by Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh and by CEC directors, Nashat Al Khatib, Khaled Al Sayyed, and Radhi Bishtawi.

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An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

Responsible Editor: **MOHAMMAD AMAD**

Board of Directors: **JUMA' A HAMMAD**
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MAHMOUD AL KAYED

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Editorial and advertising offices: Jordan Press Foundation, University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephone: 666320, 666265 Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Telegrams: JORTIMES, Amman, Jordan.

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

What price, Israel?

LAST WEEK'S exchange of prisoners between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is, as Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat pointed out in Tripoli on Thursday, a major victory for the Palestinians. Not only was Israel forced to accept most, if not all, demands of the PLO, some 4,600 Palestinian prisoners also made it back to their cause, families and homes in dignity and style.

The Israelis may have rightly thought that, in order to secure the return of six of their soldier prisoners, they paid a heavy price by releasing all the Ansar detainees and others held in Israeli prisons for many years as well as returning historic and cultural material from the archives of the PLO. But it is hardly true that the exchange is everything that the Israelis have had to pay for their 17-month-old invasion of Lebanon.

In fact, it is a big fallacy to say that the Israeli government had to pay dearly for the release of its six soldiers who were detained for many months with the PLO. All that has happened so far is an Israel continuing to face, from day to day, the consequences of its failure to achieve anything from invading another country and wreaking havoc among its people.

From the loss of over 550 soldiers (minimum Israeli official figures), the injuries of several thousands of its troops, the economic cost of men and material destruction over nearly one and a half years of continuous fighting, to the demise of Begin "the King of Israel", the new-old Israeli government does not seem to have had enough, and it is still in the process of asking for more.

Shamir, Arens and Co. have to stop their ugly Zionist dreams and despicable acts against the Palestinian people, and the rest of the Arabs, if they truly want to stop the suffering. They could think of gain and dignity for their people only when they would care to wake up to the fact that not the complete arsenal of America nor any military might could in fact buy them one iota of peace with the Arabs, either presently or in the future.

Alas, Shamir, like his mentor Begin, has lived too long by the sword to remember peace, and he looks like a man who has completely forgotten what compromise means. It is not only his problem, but also that of everybody in Israel. Until the Israelis realise their own weakness, there is not going to be only one "heavy price" for their state to pay, and certainly not enough time to complain about costs and prices either.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Indicator of Italian concern

PRESIDENT PERTINI'S visit to Jordan is an indicator that Italy wants to maintain very strong ties with this country. No doubt King Hussein, in a speech at a banquet to honour his distinguished guest, had in mind this fact when he stressed Jordan's desire to further bolster cooperation between Italy and Jordan. Furthermore, King Hussein seized on the opportunity to stress the fact that Jordan seeks to find a just and durable Middle East peace and a lasting settlement to the Palestine problem that will ensure the rights of the Palestinian people in their own land. He also stressed the significance of the European role in helping to achieve this peace and in restoring the rights of the Arab people.

Jordan supports the Venice Declaration on the Middle East and wants the international community to take an active part in establishing peace and justice to the region's peoples. In view of its proximity to the Middle East, Europe ought to take speedy action in forcing Israel to recognise the rights of the Palestinians and to bring a halt to Israel's disregard of U.N. resolutions. The Italian government under the leadership of President Pertini has in the past displayed interest in maintaining peace in this region and we hope Italy will take a bigger role in establishing a permanent peace.

Al Dustour: Allies of justice

AT THE banquet which King Hussein hosted for President Pertini Saturday evening, the King stressed that the Palestine problem is the crux of the whole Middle East issue and any delay in solving this problem will keep this region in turmoil. The King said that all issues in this region emanate from the Palestine problem and therefore the international community must act now to bring about a lasting peace. King Hussein also referred to the important role which Italy and the European Community can play in settling the whole Middle East question. He seized the opportunity to explain Jordan's firm stand and to reiterate the country's total support for the Venice Declaration aimed at resolving the Middle East issue.

The Italian president's speech, which underlined the right of all people to exist in security and the stress he put on the need to end the occupation represent another proof that justice and peace still have allies and strong ones too. This statement can only strengthen our determination to cling to our just causes and our rights in the occupied lands. Jordan indeed appreciates the Italian stand vis-a-vis the Palestinian people's rights and is confident that the understanding between Italy and Jordan on these issues can help bolster bilateral ties for the benefit of the two peoples.

Sawt Al Shaab: Jordan's firm stand

THE DANGERS which this region now faces are partly to blame for the delay in international action to bring about a lasting peace and the establishment of the Palestinian people's rights in their homeland. This was pointed out to the Italian president at Saturday's banquet given by His Majesty King Hussein who stressed that the international community and the European Community have roles to play and can help bring peace to the region.

King Hussein did not fail to stress the firmness of Jordan's stand which calls for the restoration of Palestinian rights and territory. He said the Palestinians have the right to their own identity and freedom to determine their future on their soil, and the world should help them achieve that goal. The European stands and the Venice Declaration reflects a genuine will to establish peace and therefore Jordan now hopes that the declaration will act as an impetus to re-activate initiatives for arriving at this peace.

DE FACTONOMICS

The PLO after Tripoli

By T.A. Jaber

I HESITATED for some time before deciding to write on this month's sad and tragic fighting in and around Tripoli. My hesitation was due to a number of reasons. It is extremely difficult to be neutral and thus entirely objective towards the infighting of Palestinians and Arabs. There is also the temptation to personalise this development and become constrained with claims and counter claims about who did that or what should have been done. Finally, the pullout agreement which was reached last Friday was not clearly under implementation which leaves the door open for unforeseen developments in Tripoli.

The fighting in northern Lebanon raises many questions which may not have easy answers. Why did it happen? Is it inherent in the Palestinian revolutionary movement, as ex-

perienced in others, or induced by external factors? What are its implications on the Palestinians, on the region and on the chances for peaceful settlement?

I shall attempt to present some thoughts on its implications and future impact.

Some writers in the Arab World and outside have jumped hastily to the conclusion that Tripoli fighting stands as the last blow which will dismantle the PLO. They have written their obituary as if the Palestinian movements have reached self-destruction. May I differ with this conclusion not on emotional but on analytical bases? It is true that the PLO has been weakened internally as well as regionally. Many half-hearted sympathisers would not come forward in favour of the PLO and prefer to

wait for a clearer end of the fighting.

It is now certain that the split in the PLO will become permanent and the two factions will compete in a zero-sum game. Which side will succeed depends not on the Tripoli fighting but more on what each side will do afterwards and to what extent other players would help in reaching a just settlement of the Palestinian question.

Granting that the fighting in and near Tripoli is unfortunate and resulted in political and human losses, it has perhaps one positive impact, namely, forcing the Palestinians to take a clear position towards the chances of settlement. Time is no longer neutral nor is it working in favour of the PLO, knowing that the Israelis are intensifying their colonisation

schemes and drawing plans for further manipulation and oppression of the Palestinians under occupation. There are now two options open for the PLO: to be convinced and pursue initiatives for peaceful settlement in association with Jordan or to become more and more captive to the Fateh rebels dominated by Syria.

The Arafat loyalists who represent the majority of the PLO will go through a period of self-assessment and evaluation. This should not extend beyond four months from now. If they realise well the feeling of those in the West Bank and Gaza, the PLO loyalists or moderates should work in coordination with Jordan to exhaust all peaceful settlement possibilities. This approach may lead somewhere, knowing that cooperation between Jordan and the PLO will strengthen both of them regionally and internationally.

On the other hand, the anti-Arafat factions have almost completed their pre-designed task. From now on, they must be busy doing something else. This has to wait for orders and "guidance" from Syria. Most probably they will be used to expose the split within the PLO in various for a and challenge movements of Arafat's line. Syria will not give them access to Israeli borders or South Lebanon occupied by Israel, because as reiterated by Israeli President Chaim Herzog recently, Syria has always respected its commitments with Israel. If the PLO opts for closer ties with Jordan, Syria and the rebels will have a common objective, namely to put pressure on Jordan.

Jordan has been standing for Arab cooperation and the Kingdom does meet its pro-Arab obligations faithfully. If a scheme of cooperation could be reached among Arab countries in the Greater Syria sub-region, a la the Gulf Cooperation Council, Jordan will not hesitate to support it. But Syria's objective is not to realise regional cooperation, it is domination through unacceptable destabilising tactics. The first approach will be strongly resisted by the Jordanian people and its leadership.

We express our sorrow for the tragic events in the two Palestinian camps near Tripoli and the loss of innocent lives there and in Tripoli itself, and at the same time hope that the correct lessons are learned by the mainstream of the PLO, namely to reject Syrian domination and say yes to regional cooperation.

Greek, Turkish ambassadors express their government's views on Denktash's move

Cyprus: Greek condemnation vs Turkish justification

By Lamis K. Andoni
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The proclamation of an independent "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" last week by the Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash has not only provoked an international outcry but has also widened the rift between Greece and Turkey, both members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). Turkey, although initially taken by surprise by Mr. Denktash's proclamation, has recognised the newly declared state, while Greece has severely condemned the action and embarked on an international campaign to reverse it.

In separate interviews with the Jordan Times this week, the Turkish and the Greek ambassadors in Amman shed some light on how the governments in Ankara and Athens view the complex problems of the island, and outlined their respective countries' proposals for a permanent solution of the two-community crisis in Cyprus.

Mr. Resat Arim, the Turkish ambassador, expressed understanding of the reasons that "compelled" Mr. Denktash to declare the establishment of the Turkish Republic of the Northern Cyprus. "The Turkish Cypriot people have the right to self-determination," he said. "True, a just and lasting solution could have been reached. But the Turkish Cypriot community cannot be blamed for the failure of nine years of talks."

Furthermore, Mr. Arim said, independence does not necessarily imply division. "The Turkish Cypriots want to form a bi-zonal federation with the Greek Cypriots; thus independence does not mean that the island will remain divided," he said. According to the declaration of independence, issued by the Turkish Cypriot assembly on Nov. 15, the newly declared state has no intention to unite with any other state but in a federation with the Greek Cypriots. Mr. Arim said, "For his part, Mr. George Constantas, the Greek ambassador, strongly denounced the proclamation describing it as 'illegal'. This 'independence' while deepening the division of the island, violates the treaties of London and Zurich of 1959 between Greece, Turkey and the United Kingdom which established the independence and indivisibility of Cyprus, he said.

The Italian president's speech, which underlined the right of all people to exist in security and the stress he put on the need to end the occupation represent another proof that justice and peace still have allies and strong ones too. This statement can only strengthen our determination to cling to our just causes and our rights in the occupied lands. Jordan indeed appreciates the Italian stand vis-a-vis the Palestinian people's rights and is confident that the understanding between Italy and Jordan on these issues can help bolster bilateral ties for the benefit of the two peoples.

The DANGERS which this region now faces are partly to blame for the delay in international action to bring about a lasting peace and the establishment of the Palestinian people's rights in their homeland. This was pointed out to the Italian president at Saturday's banquet given by His Majesty King Hussein who stressed that the international community and the European Community have roles to play and can help bring peace to the region.

The ambassador was referring to the treaties of establishment and guarantee in which the foundations of the independence of Cyprus were laid. Turkey, Greece, the United Kingdom and Cyprus have to abide by the provisions of the treaties. Cyprus gained its independence in 1960.

Mr. Constantas pointed out that according to article three of the treaty of guarantee "Greece, Turkey and the United Kingdom undertake to prohibit so far as concerns them, any activity aimed at promoting, directly or indirectly either union of Cyprus with other state, or partition of the island". He accused the Turkish Cypriot leaders and Turkey of aiming at dividing the island.

The Turkish ambassador, however, reiterated that Turkey does not aim to divide the island nor to unite with the newly declared state. "To establish a bi-zonal federation is the sole aim of the Turkish Cypriots; but, unfortunately, the Greek Cypriots treat the Turkish Cypriots as a minority and not as equals," Mr. Arim said. "The Turkish Cypriots constitute a people that has the right to self-determination just as the Greek Cypriots," he added.

Treaties of independence

Mr. Arim disagreed that the proclamation of independence by the Turkish Cypriot community is contrary to the 1959 treaties of independence. "The treaties of independence and the constitution form a whole, which, by recognising the two communities as the co-founders of the state and by establishing their bi-communal republic, have enabled the two communities to exercise simultaneously their rights of self-determination," he said.

The Turkish envoy stressed that in Cyprus "there is not one separate Cypriot nation. There are two peoples living on the island and the Greek Cypriot administration cannot claim to represent the Turkish Cypriots". The Greek ambassador maintained that the Turkish Cypriot resolution violates the treaties of independence signed in 1959 and which stood for a unitary state. "The Turkish Cypriots are a minority that should be proportionally represented and granted their basic rights by the central government," he said. "What would Turkey do if the Kurds demanded to establish their own independent state in Turkey?" he asked. "The Turkish government, of course, will reject such a demand. It is a comparable situation in Cyprus."

There are around nine million Kurds in Turkey that make up about one-fifth of the total population of the country, who on several occasions have voiced their demands for independence.

Settlers from Turkey

Mr. Constantas went into the historic roots of the Cyprus problem. He pointed out that in 1963, the Turkish Cypriots constituted 18.8 per cent of the population although according to the constitution they were represented as 30 per cent in the administration and as 40 per cent in the armed forces. But "the Turkish invasion of 1974," he added, "has altered the proportion of the population".

"The Turks have brought in 30,000 settlers from Turkey, thus illegally raising the percentage of the Turkish Cypriots to around 22-23 per cent," Mr. Constantas said.

"Hence Mr. Denktash represents the Turkish Cypriot community in Cyprus and no more than that," he added.

"One of the goals of Mr. Denktash's latest move was to strengthen his negotiating position but his declaration has ended up in blocking the talks."

In Mr. Arim's view, the proclamation of independence will not disrupt the talks. "The same thing was said in 1975 when the Federated State of Kibris (Cyprus) was declared. The United Nations General Assembly then called for the resumption of the talks, and so it was," he explained that in 1974 the Turkish government had to "take the peace action in order to protect the Turkish community" after the coup d'etat against Archbishop Makarios. He pointed out that the Turkish action, in which Turkish troops were sent to the island, was in accordance with article number four of the Treaty of Guarantee which states that "in the event of a breach of the present treaty, Greece, Turkey and the United Kingdom undertake to consult together with respect to the representations or measures necessary to ensure observance of these provisions. In so far as common or concerted action may not prove possible, each of the three guaranteeing powers reserves the right to take action with the sole aim of re-establishing the state of affairs created by the present treaty."

As for "the claim" that Turkey had brought 30,000 "settlers" to the island after 1974, Mr. Arim said, it is "a propaganda". "After the events of 1974 there was an insufficiency of labour force in the

northern part of the island. Thus the Turkish Cypriots brought in a couple of thousands labourers to the island," he said.

Mr. Constantas, however, insists that the action taken by Turkey in 1974 was "a military invasion."

"The Treaty of Guarantee does not call for a military intervention, but since article four of the treaty speaks of an action to be taken by one of the three guaranteeing powers in case a concerted effort was not possible, the right of Turkey to interfere is questionable," he said. Nevertheless, Mr. Constantas considers that "Turkey's intervention" in the Cypriot affairs in 1974 is a violation of the treaty, for, first, according to article four of the Treaty of Guarantee, a unilateral action can be undertaken with the sole aim of "re-establishing the state of affairs."

Second, Mr. Constantas said, there was "no threat" to the Turkish Cypriots, "not a single Turk was harmed in the five days that elapsed between the anti-Makarios coup and the Turkish invasion."

Third, the Greek ambassador pointed out, the events in 1974 were an internal Greek affair not threatening the state of affairs created by treaties of independence.

The 1974 coup was organised against Archbishop Makarios by a right wing Greek Cypriot organisation called (EOKAB) with the help of the military junta in Greece at that time.

"The aim of the 'invasion' was to divide the island through occupation and to alter its demographic composition," Mr. Constantas said. "For Greek Cypriots fled to the south and Turkish Cypriots went north," he explained.

Threat to Turkish community

But Mr. Arim is convinced that in 1974 the situation presented a palpable threat to the Turkish community. "Moreover, the island has been divided, since the events of 1963-1964," he pointed out. "From that time until 1974, the Turkish Cypriot community had been living in separate areas."

In 1963 Archbishop Makarios presented proposals to amend the Cypriot constitution. Among them was a proposal to deprive the vice president, who was a Turkish Cypriot, of this right to veto power. This step was interpreted by the Turkish Cypriots as aiming at undermining the power and the rights of the Turkish Cypriot community. Moreover, the Greek Cypriots refused a proposal by the Turkish Cypriot community to set up segregated municipalities and insisted on uni-

tary municipalities. This led to a flare of events in 1964 and to bloody clashes between the two communities.

'Division of the island'

The Greek ambassador views the events of 1964, the 1974, and Nov. 15th independence proclamation as evidence of what he calls the long-term aim of Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot leaders "i.e. (division) of the island."

For his part the Turkish ambassador cited "enosis", or Greek Cypriot desire to unite the island with Greece, as constituting the crux of the problem. He quoted at length from a speech given by the President of Greece Mr. Karamanlis, on April 1983, at a dinner party he gave to Mr. Spyros Kyprianou. According to the speech, as reported by Athens news bulletin, Mr. Karamanlis pointed out "that Cyprus should have been given its independence in 1960 to develop into an exemplary state without dismissing the hope for Enosis (union with Greece) under certain prerequisites", Mr. Arim said.

Mr. Constantas, however, affirmed that Greece has no intention to annex the island. "Enosis was a wish expressed during the struggle for independence from the United Kingdom. We abide by the political realities, and Greece respects the independence treaties," he said. "We wish to see a united Cyprus where both communities can move freely in the island."

Asked whether the Treaty of Guarantee infringes upon the independence of Cyprus and therefore it should be abolished, both ambassadors who are serving their first ambassadorial posts, stressed that the treaty "guarantees" the independence of the island.

"The Treaty of Guarantee is a logical annex to the treaties of London and Zurich that created the independent and unitary Cypriot state which guarantees it remains so", Mr. Constantas said.

Mr. Arim stressed that the Treaty of Guarantee does not, in any way, infringe upon the independence of Cyprus. "On the contrary it guarantees the independence of the island," he said.

"In fact, in 1974 when the independence of Cyprus was seriously threatened by the coup against Archbishop Makarios, it was Turkey that saved the independence of the island basing its action on the provisions of the Treaty of Guarantee," he added. The two ambassadors then outlined both countries respective proposals for a permanent and just solution for the Cypriot crisis.

The Greek ambassador said that a just and lasting solution for the bi-communal crisis should be based on the U.N. resolutions calling for the withdrawal of Turkish troops from the island and the rescinding of the Nov. 15 declaration of independence of the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus".

The implementation of the U.N. resolutions will form a basis for a successful resumption of the bi-communal talks with the aim of establishing a bi-communal unitary state on the island", Mr. Constantas said.

He pointed out that the Turkish Cypriots "should be left to alone" to decide about their future "without external influence."

Hopes for intercommunal talks

Mr. Arim expressed Turkey's hope "to see the two communities start intercommunal talks to achieve a durable solution already there. In 1977 the Denktash-Makarios summit agreement stated that a bi-communal federation is the desired goal. Later in 1979 the (Denktash-Kyprianou) statement confirmed the same position. In 1980 the U.N. Secretary General's opening statement also endorsed a bi-communal federated state. The 1981 Evaluation Document of the U.N. Secretary General again supported the same objective", Mr. Arim said. Therefore, the two communities have to narrow their differences, to realise this goal, he added.

Yet according to some Middle Eastern analysts, Turkey's recognition of the newly declared "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" might inflict damage to the country's relations with other world countries, especially from its Western allies in the NATO who severely criticised the proclamation. Moreover, the U.N. Security Council has called for the rescinding of the declaration.

Commenting on the U.N. Security Council, the Turkish ambassador said that his country had hoped that the international body could endorse a resolution "more conducive" to the bi-communal talks. He did not elaborate on the point.

But Mr. Arim disagreed that Turkey's endorsement of the step taken by Mr. Denktash would not affect its relations with other countries. "Turkey has been defending the just cause of the Turkish Cypriots for the last 20 years," he said. "I hope that during that time the international community has observed who is right and who is wrong in the dispute."

Open prospects for Chad peace

By Nick Kotch
Rear

ABIDJAN — An undertaking by Chad President Hissene Habre to attend peace talks on neutral ground has given the first hint of a breakthrough in the conflict between the government and the rebels.

In a radical shift from its previous position, Mr. Habre's government agreed Thursday to go to Addis Ababa for national reconciliation talks "without preconditions".

The statement in N'djamena was the strongest indication yet that Mr. Habre was finally prepared to meet rebel factions who seized control of northern Chad last summer with substantial Libyan military help.

Informed sources in Abidjan said the meeting in the Ethiopian capital, due to take place in mid-December, would bring the Organisation of African Unity (OAU)

back to the centre of attempts to resolve the 17-year civil war.

The list of participants is still unknown but Mr. Habre's dropping of preconditions and his pledge that "nothing would be excluded" from debate is clear evidence that combined French and African diplomatic pressure has ended months of deadlock.

Until recently Mr. Habre stubbornly insisted he could reach a settlement only with Libya, and described former President Goukouni Oueddei and other rebel chiefs as "irrelevant puppets and mercenaries."

Now the Chad president, who ousted Mr. Goukouni in June 1982, has not only accepted a direct encounter with his bitter foes but bowed to pressure that the meeting should be in Addis Ababa.

The breakthrough followed a flurry of diplomatic contacts last week. An OAU mission discussed peace proposals in Paris and N'djamena, the French President

Francois Mitterrand sent his top African adviser, Guy Penne, to the Chadian capital.

France, the former colonial power, has a key role in solving the conflict and can exert great pressure on Mr. Habre to reach a settlement. Over 2,500 French troops are still in Chad after they arrived in August to assist the Habre government.

Peace is assured so long as they stay but military analysts said Mr. Habre's ability to keep control of the capital, the centre and the south would be sorely tested if they left.

The prolonged presence of a costly French force in Chad would be as difficult for Mr. Mitterrand to sell to domestic public opinion as it would be to African leaders opposed to foreign military intervention on the continent, diplomatic sources said.

So far the current OAU chairman, Ethiopian President Haile Mengistu Mariam, has tacitly accepted the French position that its

troops are needed to help towards a peaceful settlement.

Mr. Mitterrand has refused to use his troops to oust the rebels from the north, leaving Mr. Habre with a de facto partition of his country as the unpalatable alternative to talks.

Although the way has now been paved for talks, there is still little ground for optimism about their outcome.

Mr. Habre is the recognised head of state of Chad, but almost half his country is controlled by Mr. Goukouni and other rebel leaders who say their coalition government was toppled in 1982 with the connivance of Western powers and conservative African states.

Western diplomats in Paris have suggested elections might be held leading to a new national government.

Nigerian President Shehu Shagari proposed the United Nations send a peace-keeping force while a settlement was worked out.

LETTERS

Topics of great value

To the Editor:

I admire Randa Habib's corner, where she has pointed out, bravely and constructively, many of our daily life problems such as traffic, high school fees, birthday and wedding parties — etc., and last but not least "First Class Surprises" (Jordan Times, Nov. 17-18, 1983).

Ms. Habib raised a true and significant issue in a very nice and humorous way. I do not think that she is comparing our restaurants' prices with those of London's. For such a comparison you need to know many economic factors like inflation rates, standard of living and others.

I also do not think that Ms. Habib is demolishing a pillar of our Jordanian life as pointed out by Mr. Abu Nowar (Jordan Times, Nov. 20, 1983) or doing the country any harm when she asks for a good cup of coffee in a clean pot at a reasonable price. Moreover, are we opening restaurants for tourists only and to have them satisfied only? What about Jordanians? If it is just the tourist's reaction that we care for, then why do not we put a sign in front of each restaurant saying: "Tourists Only"? One final word for Ms. Randa Habib: "Bravo, and we are waiting for more of your golden ideas."

Mohammed Mansour,
Amman, Jordan.

By Dina Matar
Reuter

BAHRAIN — Muslim women in some Middle East countries have shed their veils and are gradually breaking down a male stranglehold on jobs, but in others they remain confined to a traditional role in the home.

Feminists say that, overall, the cause of Middle East women is at a standstill. "It is a man's world," says Ms. Amina Tawfik, a leading Egyptian journalist.

In North Yemen and Saudi Arabia, and to lesser extent in other Gulf states, where women have always worn the abaya, a head-to-toe garment, many see their sole job as being wives and mothers. "A woman's place is at home," is an oft-heard remark in the Middle East.

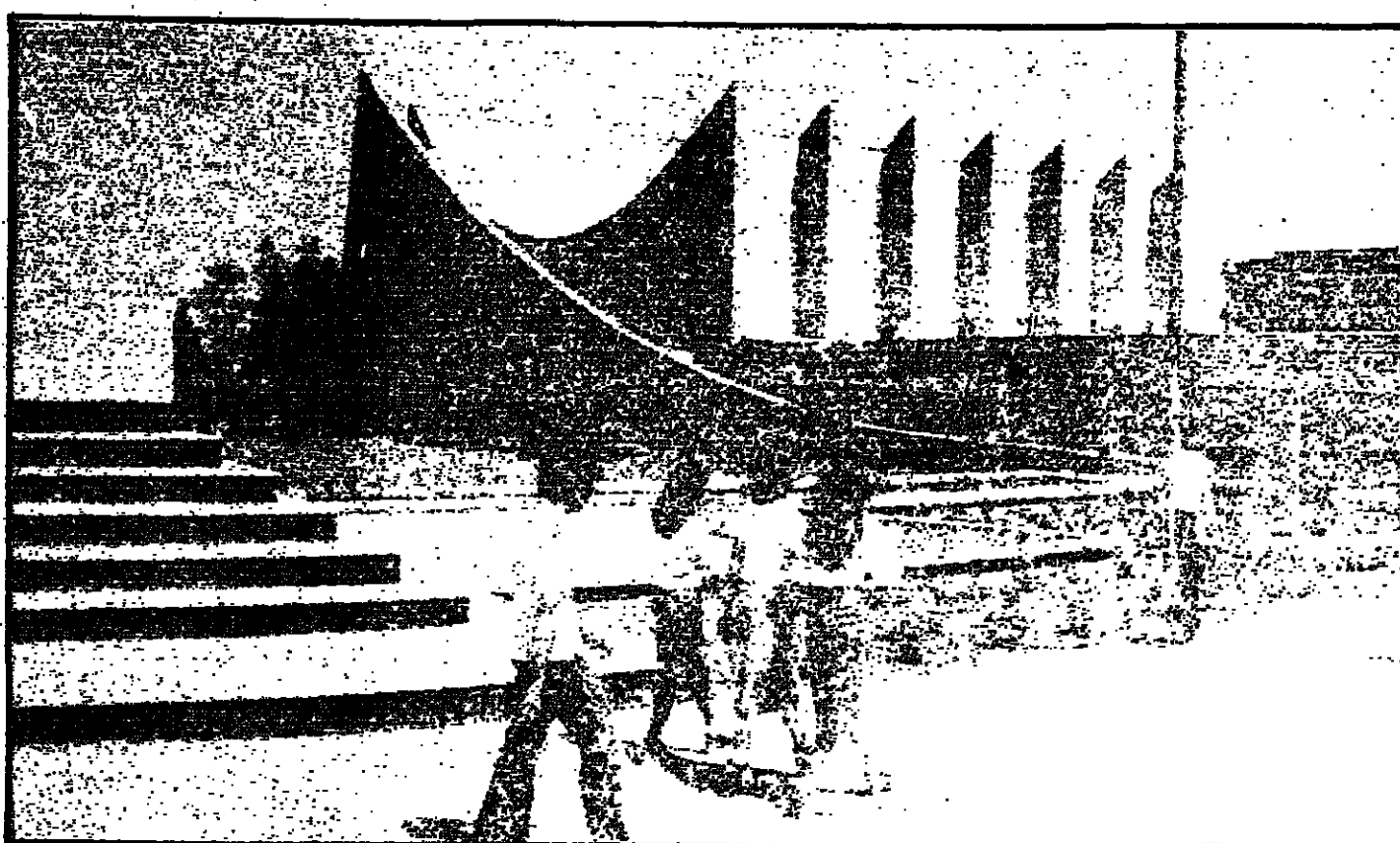
Before the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran that overthrew the shah, many women in Tehran flitted with what non-Muslims call emancipation. Now they have to follow strict dress and behaviour guidelines set out by the republic's fundamentalist leaders.

Sociologists said that although more Middle East women started to take jobs outside the home in the 1950s, a major catalyst in some states for a move from a purely traditional role was provided by the oil boom of the 1970s.

Oil changed roles

Many men from Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt flocked to the Gulf countries, which with their newly-found wealth were pressing ahead with development projects and offering attractive wages that could not be matched at home. The sociologists said this migration allowed women left behind to help cover a labour shortage.

Women in these countries now enjoy equal work opportunities



In most Middle East countries the traditional role of women has not changed but in Iraq, students at Baghdad University join fully in that country's opportunities (file photo).

'It's still a man's world' in the Middle East

with men and have the right to vote and stand in parliamentary and municipal elections. Syria, Jordan and Egypt each have one woman cabinet minister.

But there are none in Turkey, where women have never mounted a serious challenge to the male domination of politics more than 60 years after the founder of modern Turkey, Kemal Ataturk, led a move towards sexual equality.

"Women politicians are simply not trusted," a former member of Turkey's parliament said.

Women, however, are active in most parts of business in the country.

In Kuwait, the only Gulf state with a parliament, a vocal women's movement has been campaigning for the right to vote.

Male resistance to privileges offered to working women in other spheres in the Middle East also sometimes surfaces.

In Egypt, where women can take three months leave on full pay after giving birth and up to four years without pay after that, a senior bank official said, "Women

have been pampered enough in a country where over-employment is a common malady."

Women's associations in Jordan are meanwhile campaigning for amendments to labour laws that would give working women more privileges such as longer maternity leave.

Jordan is having to train women in marketable skills to meet the country's economic needs and to compensate for the large number of men who have migrated to Gulf states.

Although many Gulf countries

still frown on women working, they are spending more money on women's education right up to university level. Saudi Arabia, which now has a special bank in Jeddah for women, run by women, spends more than \$1.1 billion annually on educating women.

Some feminists say sex equality is still far away because many women cherish the role of loved housewives and mothers and seek jobs as outlets rather than as sources of income.

Ms. Hind Nasser, president of the Jordanian Club for Business

and Professional Women, said, "A woman has to be accepted by society before she can play a constructive role."

While factors such as the migration of male workers has helped to enhance the status of many women in the Middle East, the Iranian revolution has given impetus to local Islamic fundamentalist movements. A manifestation of this is dress.

In revolutionary Iran, a woman appearing in public with more than her face and hands bare is liable to suffer anything from a rebuke from a passer-by to imprisonment. This means at the minimum wearing a headscarf, a dull-coloured smock covering the arms and reaching below the knees and thick stockings to disguise the shape of the legs.

The impact of the Iranian revolution on women's dress, especially the wearing of the headscarves, has been felt specially in those Gulf states with large communities of Shia.

Even in Jordan, more and more women cover their heads with scarves. The number of veiled students at Jordan University has risen markedly in recent years.

However, very few veils are seen in Syria, which has not been influenced by any Islamic revival. The government moved rapidly to crush outlawed fundamentalist groups last year.

Instead, teenage girls in camouflaged paratrooper uniforms are a familiar sight in Damascus.

Many women in Libya wear veils, although Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi does not insist on this and is often seen surrounded by female bodyguards. He has introduced rules giving working women more privileges.

In Iraq, the three-year-old war with Iran has provided more jobs for women, mainly to replace men who have been called to the battle front.

Randa Habib's Corner

Nasty phone calls

The telephone rings. You rush to answer.

— "Hello". No answer.

— "Hello". Still nothing.

You hang up. If you are an optimist, you might think that it is an international call that somehow didn't get through. So you go back to what you were doing, and the phone rings another time. You rush to answer again. And again, there is nothing.

You hang up and start to wonder what is going on.

The same happens again and again. Your nerves are shattered and you become irritated. When a friend calls you, you answer with a shriek and nervous "hello" that could mean as well "I hope that you're gonna answer this time".

Your friend is surprised by your reaction and the tone of your voice and you explain to her that since morning you have been answering "ghost" calls and that you thought that hers was another one of them.

Yes, many people around me are complaining about anonymous calls, either from people who hang up and say nothing or from people who say obscene words. This friend told me that only last week that every day when she came back from the office, the young Filipino who takes care of the housework told her: "Madam, what does this word mean?" And an obscene Arabic word followed that made my friend nearly suffocate.

The young Filipino explained that a gentleman had called and told her this word and that she remembered it to know what it meant. The next days different "words" of the kind were added to the vocabulary of the house. I have myself been a victim of such a satyr who had the bad habit of calling at 6.00 a.m.

Still groggy, I used to answer the phone and in lieu of good morning, I used to hear a word that was like a slap on the face. One day I just took him by surprise and no sooner had the phone rung at 6.00 a.m. (it couldn't be him) I started lecturing him about morality and the fact that his call could be traced because our telephone was being watched on our request (I was bluffing) etc... that was the end of the calls of this satyr.

But one last thing for all those who suffer from these calls: It seems that the police believe that such calls are made by thieves who want to check whether there are people at home, so watch it.

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SPORTS

Britain's Durie shows her mettle

SYDNEY (R) — British number one Jo Durie played an impressive serve-and-volley game despite considerable pain from a back injury to win the \$150,000 New South Wales Women's Tennis Open here on Sunday.

The tall 23-year-old underwent 30 minutes of treatment on a pulled muscle before defeating Amer-

ican Kathy Jordan 6-3, 7-5 to take her second major title of the year and a winner's cheque for \$27,500.

Durie, seeded third here and ranked 13th in the world, took 75 minutes to defeat fourth-seeded Jordan, who has reached five finals this year but lost them all.

McEnroe looking for his 1st Australian Open title

MELBOURNE (R) — Wimbledon Champion John McEnroe, seeking his first Australian Tennis Open title, must show more of his recent devastating form against the strongest field for years when the tournament begins at Kooyong on Monday.

Although he had a forced break due to a three-week suspension, the talented American made a

Squash Federation appoints new president

AMMAN (J.T.) — The reorganising of the Jordan Squash Federation was necessary in order to improve the standard of the game and to widen the base of the sport in the country, the Youth Welfare Organisation announced Saturday.

Mr. Jawdat Abdel Mun'em has been appointed president of the federation while Mr. Fawaz Touqan appointed vice president. Other shuffles in the administrative positions have also taken place within the federation in preparation for the second Asian Squash Championship that Jordan is hosting on Dec. 12.

On this occasion, the federation will issue a weekly bulletin on sports and tourism in Jordan, published in both Arabic and English languages. The bulletin will be edited jointly by Mr. Nazmi Al Saeed, Dr. Fawaz Touqan, Mr. Abdul Mun'em Abu Toq, Mr. Hussam Barakat and Mr. Youssef Jilani.

dramatic return earlier this month, bludgeoning a disenchanted Jimmy Connors into submission at the London Indoor Tournament.

Seeded second behind Czechoslovak star Ivan Lendl, McEnroe faces several tough, big-serving opponents in his half of the draw.

But he starts with the psychological advantage of a convincing 6-3, 6-1 victory over Lendl in the Rio International Challenge in Canberra Saturday night.

All 16 seeds have first-round byes, and may have to wait longer than planned for their first matches — torrential rain over the past few days has severely disrupted the opening round and only four matches are now scheduled for Monday.

Apart from the established stars, the big-serving players who could upset the draw card include former champion Roscoe Tanner, who at 32 remains a force to be reckoned with, Eric Korita, 20, from Chicago and towering American Chip Hooper.

At Wimbledon last year, Hooper stunned seventh seed Peter McNamee of Australia with a

powerful performance in the first round.

Others standing between McEnroe and the title include former French Open Champion and Swedish Davis Cup star Mats Wilander, defending champion Johan Kriek of the U.S., and former titleholders, Americans, Vitas Gerulaitis and Brian Teacher.

Mark Edmondson, the 1976 winner, Australian Davis Cup hero John Fitzgerald, and Paul McNamee, the 16th seed and a semifinalist last year, are all well versed in grass-court tactics, but the chances of an Australian champion are remote.

By contrast, the women's tournament will present few problems for odds-on favourite and world number one Martina Navratilova of the U.S., leaving only the French Open title outstanding for the "grand slam."

The event has lost its defending champion, world number two Chris Lloyd, who has a foot injury, as well as fellow-Americans Andrea Jaeger and Tracy Austin.

West German Silvia Hanika is seeded second ahead of American Pam Shriver, but Britain's rising young player Jo Durie is one of the few aggressive serve-and-volley players who could trouble Navratilova.

The Australian Open carries record prize money of \$1.25m with a men's first prize of \$77,500 and \$75,000 for the women's champion.

Liverpool stays top after West Ham, United draw

LONDON (R) — Referee Clive Thomas aided Liverpool's English Soccer Championship hopes when he denied Manchester United victory against West Ham on Sunday.

Thomas made the most telling contribution of the game when he chalked-off a Bryan Robson goal on the stroke of half-time and the teams went on to draw 1-1, a result which left them both one point behind Liverpool.

United, the classier outfit throughout, appeared to have taken a deserved lead when Robson lashed the ball into the net after West Ham goalkeeper Phil Parkes had failed to hold a fierce shot from

Dutchman Arnold Muhren. Thomas initially awarded the goal, but, after consulting a linesman, reversed his decision and gave West Ham a free kick for offside against Muhren.

United eventually took the lead in the 56th minute when former England captain Ray Wilkins took advantage of a defensive mix-up to sweep the ball past Parkes from 10 metres.

But the United defence was equally culpable two minutes later when they stood back to admire a Geoff Pike corner and Dave Swindlehurst rose unchallenged to head the equaliser.

Stanerra wins Japan Cup

TOKYO (R) — Five-year-old Irish mare Stanerra shook off a last-minute muscle ailment to win the third Japan Cup by a head from Kyohei Promise of Japan at the Tokyo race course on Sunday.

Esprit du Nord, a French three-year-old colt, took third place, a head behind Kyohei Promise, but the Japanese six-year-old injured his front right leg 50 metres from the post and will not race again.

English-trained Hig Hawk, one of the pre-race favourites, disliked the firm going and let the punters down badly, finishing 13th out of the field of 16 — nine foreign and seven Japanese thoroughbreds.

The 137.2-million-yen

(\$590,000) Japan Cup, run at the course at Fuchu in Tokyo's western suburbs, is Japan's only international horse race.

Stanerra's victory in her second attempt at the 2,400-metre (1.5-mile) race was the high point of a fine season for owner and trainer Frank Dunne.

Asked how he felt about the result, which won him 72 million yen (\$305,000), Dunne said "incredible. It's an even finer thrill than winning both races at Ascot." Stanerra, ridden by Brian Rouse, won Britain's Hardwicke Stakes and two races at Royal Ascot earlier this year.

Yet she nearly did not race at all on Sunday. After arriving in

Japan, the mare "tied up" with a muscular problem and could not be galloped while training for the race, Dunne said.

The fast pace set by Hagho Kanui-o of Japan, who shot into a 10-length lead after the first turn but then faded to finish last, did not worry Dunne or Rouse.

"In all her races she jumps from her stalls slow and runs from behind," Dunne told a press conference. Rouse said he hit the front about 200 metres from the finishing post.

"As she was a little short of work I had to wait as long as I could, otherwise I'd have gone in front at the turn, about 200 metres sooner," Rouse said.

Richards defies Indian bowlers

BOMBAY (R) — An aggressive batsman Desmond Richards, who scored 55 and helped India's efforts to gain the upperhand in the fourth cricket test against the West Indies on Sunday.

At the close of the third day the touring team were 204 for three in reply to India's first innings total of 463.

Opening batsman Desmond Richards, who scored 55 and helped India add 81 after the first two wickets had gone down at 47, became only the fourth batsman in the 106-year history of test cricket to be dismissed for handling the ball.

Shortly before tea a delivery from Kapil Dev found the inside edge of Richards' bat and started to roll gently towards the stumps. Richards brushed it away with the palm of his hand and was given out.

India's hopes of further success were thwarted by Richards and Larry Gomes, whose fourth wicket partnership was worth 76 by the close. Richards, dropped when he had made 47 and 58, completed his hundred off 130 balls in 193 minutes. He hit 13 fours and a six.

The decision to give Richards out was taken by umpires M.V. Gohokar and Swarup Krishan after a brief consultation following an appeal by Kapil Dev.

The pitch was slow and receptive to spin when the West Indies resumed on Sunday at night for no wicket.

But leading seamer Kapil Dev was the most effective of the bow-

lers, even though he failed to take a wicket. He moved the ball off the seam and often beat the bat.

Only 16 runs came in the first hour but Haynes and Gordon Greenidge began to play with more freedom once left arm spinner Ravi Shastri lost his control after initially causing the batsmen problems.

Off-spinner Shival Yadav, who had not played in a test for almost two years, came on with the score at 39 and in his fourth over he bowled Greenidge between pad and bat with a turning delivery.

Two balls later, Richie Richardson, playing in his first test, was leg before to Yadav. He was clearly unhappy about being given out, indicating that he had played

the ball on to his pad.

After lunch Richards immediately set about mastering Yadav. Stroking the ball powerfully, mainly on the outside, he reached his 50 from 63 balls, with seven fours.

At 47 he drove upshishly at a full toss from Shastri and survived a difficult chance to mid-wicket. He was again put down at 58, this time by wicketkeeper Syed Kirmani from a mistimed cut off Yadav. From then on Richards' innings was faultless and he reached his century 25 minutes before the close.

Gomes was content to play a supporting role but began to look for runs more eagerly after Richards had completed his century.

Egypt's National suffers setback in African Cup

CAIRO (R) — National of Egypt's chances of retaining the African Club Winners' Cup received a serious setback on Sunday when they were held to a scoreless draw by Ashante Kotoko of Ghana in the first leg of the final.

Kotoko erased many bitter memories from last year's final, when they went down 0-3 in the Cairo away leg on the way to losing 1-4 on aggregate to National.

Although Kotoko played with a packed defence for most of Sunday's game, they nearly scored several times in the first half and only a spectacular save by goalkeeper Mohammad Ikrami in the 32nd minute helped to save the day for National.

But Kotoko's powerful display

of tackling and accurate passing was marked by rough play, prompting the referee to show yellow cards to Yehia Kassu, earnest Abaou and Seth Ampofo.

Kotoko appeared to have caught National off guard in the dying seconds of the first half with two powerful shots by captain Papa Arko and Seth Ampofo.

For National, the result could prove to be the end of their bid to keep the trophy. The second leg in Kumasi next month promises to be a bruising encounter.

National, supported by 100,000 fans led by President Hosni Mubarak in the main stand, played one of their worst games since they started their assault on the trophy.

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All these equipment and machinery are under the temporary entrance situation and duty unpaid except the VW Mini Bus No. 114166 which has a private license number plate.

Those who are interested in buying are requested to present their offers in a sealed envelope to: Projects Directorate, Ministry of Education, P.O. Box 9640, Amman; Tel. No. 669181. Latest at 2:00 p.m. of Sunday Dec. 25, 1983.

Second: Household furniture: located at Irbid Education Directorate/ Services Division where it can be inspected. Offers to be presented in a sealed envelope to the same division or to Projects Directorate, Ministry of Education, P.O. Box 9640, latest at 2:00 p.m. of Sunday Dec. 25, 1983.

Third: Office furniture located in Amman. Those interested in buying are requested to contact the Chief Clerk at Projects Directorate/ Ministry of Education, P.O. Box 9640 Amman, Tel. 669181 for inspection and presentation of their offers in a sealed envelope latest at 2:00 p.m. of Sunday Dec. 25, 1983.

Remarks

1. Buyer should inspect the equipment and furniture before presenting his offer.
2. Buyer should present a certified check equal to 5 per cent of the total value of the equipment and furniture he intends to buy as a bid bond.
3. The committee is authorised to award any single item by its own.
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The project involves the construction of pipelines and pumping station to distribute 45 million cubic metres per year (45 MCM/yr) as follows:

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- B- A pump station of 335 KW and a discharge of 200 litres/second between Wadi Al Sear and Suweilah and another pump station of 30 KW and discharge of 10 litres/second in Zai area.

It is anticipated that this project will be available for tendering in early 1984.

Prequalification documents will be received not later than 12:00 noon Thursday, Dec. 24, 1983.

Documents should be sent to:

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Jordan Valley Authority
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Swiss banks fight challenge to secrecy

ZURICH (R) — Few people in conservative Switzerland believe a Socialist Party initiative to cut banking secrecy has any hope of becoming law, but the banks are taking no chances.

A national vote on the plan is due next year, possibly on May 24, and already the banks are mounting a campaign to make sure the status quo is maintained.

If the vote is positive, it would no longer be illegal for bankers to disclose details of Swiss bank accounts when foreign authorities investigate tax or currency offences.

The socialists want to improve the Swiss image abroad, and quash the popular belief, readily fuelled by films and novels, that every Swiss bank is a storehouse of ill-gotten gains or cash smuggled out of poor countries.

The banks argue that taking away their long tradition of secrecy would make them less competitive and damage the whole economy, where banking plays a significant role.

Banks employ around 96,000 of the 2.5 million strong work force and contribute 20 per cent to the government's total tax revenues.

Honest broker

The banks are pushing their role as honest broker. A recent publication from Union Bank of Switzerland displayed a cartoon of a jailed criminal complaining that details of his numbered account had been given away by the bank.

It was to make the point that in Switzerland criminals are not above the law, and even a "secret" numbered account is no protection against legal investigation.

That view is viable as far as it goes. But what is criminal abroad is not always a crime here.

In cases of simple tax evasion, as opposed to tax fraud involving forgery, banks are under no obligation to pass on information to investigators. In fact they would face heavy penalties even if they tried.

A joint paper from the three largest Swiss banks has also appealed against the initiative on humanitarian grounds.

"The provisions of the banking law and of the criminal code were 'life preservers' for those who escaped Nazi terror and for countless thousands of political refugees in Eastern Europe after World War II," it said.

Under the laws, drawn up in the 1930s to counter Nazi probes, bankers who breach secrecy face six months in prison or a fine of about \$20,000. Instigating a breach, or giving away secrets by mistake is also punishable with a fine.

Mr. Rudolf Strahm, central secretary of the Social Democrat Party and a leading exponent of the initiative, says the reform aims to stem the influx of foreign capital into Switzerland and help fight international tax evasion.

A flood of capital here in the 1970s which was escaping foreign exchange rules elsewhere was a starting point for the initiative.

The inflows boosted the franc, Swiss exports became expensive and jobs were threatened.

That, combined with a scandal at one of Switzerland's big three banks, Credit Suisse, when funds at its Chiasso branch were hived off illegally into private investments in neighbouring Italy, spurred the socialists into action.

The political climate in the 1970s would probably have favoured the socialists' programme. But since then opinion has steadily been swaying towards the right, as reflected in parliamentary elections, which favours the banks' point of view.

The banks have already had to cede many of their privileges because of international criticism.

Bilateral treaties have been signed with the U.S., allowing assistance to authorities in cases of organised crime, usually a euphemism for the stashing of mafia funds.

Only this month the Swiss drafted a law banning "insider trading" here after American protests that Swiss bank clients were using privileged information when trading securities on U.S. markets.

These moves have taken the steam out of the socialist campaign and the party suffered a setback in the latest parliamentary elections which showed a clear shift to the right.

But leading bankers are taking every opportunity to defend secrecy when they speak in public, stressing the economic importance of the banks and rejecting the claims of the left about how much "dubious" finance is actually here.

Mr. Robert Jeker of Credit Suisse has said there are indications that "flight capital" totals eight to 10 billion francs at the maximum and not the 100 billion claimed by the left.

Sudan's economy suffers amid tension

KHARTOUM (R) — A fresh bout of fighting between rebels and government troops in southern Sudan has added to the problems piling up for Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri as he tries to bolster the economy of his debt-ridden country.

The 53-year-old president has just visited the United States apparently seeking more economic and military aid for poor but strategically located Sudan.

The south, has simmered with unrest for years and fighting is not new to the volatile region. The latest flare-up on Nov. 19 coincided with the kidnapping of 11 foreign workers which the government blamed on Ethiopian-backed insurgents.

Khartoum also accused Ethiopia of massing 1,000 troops supported by 150 Cubans and Soviet advisers on its border. Ethiopia denied the accusations.

A Western diplomat who recently toured the area said the recent sabre-rattling there had delayed if not upset the timetable for work on the Jonglei canal, a joint Sudanese-Egyptian irrigation scheme, and other projects vital to Sudan's ailing economy.

"Naturally this is all an added strain to the near-bankrupt economy of the country," he told Reuters. Sudan, among Africa's poorest nations, will probably need up to \$750 million in Western aid to cover its overall payments deficit, according to Western economists in the region.

Its chief export, cotton, hit by falling prices, earned only about \$180 million last year despite production increases, a drop of about 10 per cent.

A consortium led by Italian contractor Snamprogetti SPA last month won two contracts totalling over \$380 million for construction of an oil pipeline from Sudanese oilfields in south-central Sudan to the Red Sea.

The entire project, estimated to cost about \$1 billion is about to start.

But the pipeline is seen by Western diplomats as a prime target for sabotage by insurgents who say the south has not been promised its share of oil export revenues.

The American Chevron Oil Company working in the oilfields about 750 kilometres south of Khartoum has already been caught up in the new violence. Two of its expatriate workers were recently kidnapped and briefly held.

Chevron spokesman Mr. Olin Smith told Reuters his company's immediate concern was how to safeguard the vulnerable oilfields and work on the 1,450 kilometres pipeline.

He said initial oil output was estimated at 50,000 barrels daily and that the oilfield had proven reserves of 230 million barrels.

Oil production is dependent on the pipeline, scheduled for completion by mid-1986.

There were plans to build an oil refinery, but these have been shelved in favour of exporting crude and importing refined oil.

Foreign currency from crude sales would help pay for imports, which economists estimate will have cost \$1.8 billion in 1983, about twice the value of exports.

"We have no intention to give up just because of recent incidents. But the new upsurge of violence in the Bentiu area has doubled our concern over security for the workers, the four rigs and pipeline construction without which oil will be trapped inside the wells," Mr. Smith said.

With a trade deficit of about \$1 billion a year and regional discontent in the south running high, Sudanese hopes are pinned on oil and agricultural projects to offset foreign debts, now estimated at about \$8 billion, the Western diplomats said.

In the meantime, President Numeiri has to turn to the U.S. and Saudi Arabia for economic assistance or impose austerity measures to reduce imports, service external debts and boost domestic output.

But efforts to cut consumption pose further political dangers. Moves to cut subsidies last December provoked riots.

Economic crisis has been temporarily averted by the successful rescheduling of Sudan's debts to foreign governments through French and British banks on behalf of several creditors.

Complaining of the current state of affairs, one banker said that banks get a very small share of foreign exchange from remittances of the one million Sudanese working abroad because the government allows a black market exchange.

The banks exchange the dollar for 1.27 Sudanese pounds while the black market rate is about 1.95.

Danish gas project runs into trouble

COPENHAGEN (R) — Denmark's plans to cut its dependence on imported oil by exploiting reserves of natural gas in the North Sea have run into potentially fatal financial and political difficulties.

With less than a year to go before the gas is due to start flowing to the Danish mainland, the multi-million-dollar scheme urgently needs a cash injection if it is to survive, industry sources said.

The dire financial state of the project, caused by falling gas prices, a slump in energy demand and a strong dollar, has revived long-standing worries among bankers and industrialists that it was over-ambitious and never economically viable.

It has also sparked a bitter political row between the conservative-led government and left-wing opposition parties that originally pushed the plan through parliament in 1979.

Energy Minister Knud Enggaard made sweeping changes this month to the management of the state-owned energy firm in charge of the project in a move commentators said was linked to its problems with gas.

Mr. Enggaard said he will sack the head of Dansk Olie og Naturgas and replace all government-appointed members of the board's annual meeting.

But the intervention of the central bank appeared to have put the Union Bank in a stronger position than for some time, as well as clearly demonstrating the authorities' determination to prevent bank collapses as it seeks to restructure the local banking scene.

The shortage of deposits has been exacerbated by the downturn in oil revenues, as well as the effects on business confidence throughout the Gulf of the Manakh crash and the continuing Gulf war between Iran and Iraq.

Many other banks in the emirates also had large proportions of their total loans out to individual directors and shareholders, a feature of the local banking scene the central bank is anxious to reverse as it seeks to impose greater discipline and maturity on the system.

The central bank has ruled that banks should lend no more than 5 per cent of total deposits to any one director and a maximum of 25 per cent to board members as a whole.

But banking sources say it is treading softly in enforcing the ruling, recognising the problems involved for the banks in restructuring their loan portfolios quickly.

Many borrowers have their funds tied up in long-term projects and would be unable to repay loans at short notice, they noted.

One emerging way round the problem is to arrange a series of back-to-back loans with other banks in the Gulf and elsewhere.

Under this scenario a bank with excessive loans to a director would lend funds to another which would lend them to another which would lend them back to the director, who could then partly repay the original bank.

His total borrowings could thus be spread over a greater number of banks and the original bank's director exposure reduced, thus satisfying the central bank's requirement.

But at every stage the interest rate would have to rise to provide a profit for each bank in the chain, with the net result that the director's overall interest payments would increase.

Bankers said extensive use of such a system would clearly create a complex web of possibly precarious debts. But they said it appeared the extent of the practice was limited at present.

Prompt UAE action averts banking crisis

BAHRAIN (R) — Prompt action by the Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to support the ailing Union Bank of the Middle East has averted a possible crisis of confidence in banks in the federation, Gulf bankers said last week.

Union Bank said it was sound and would continue to operate normally, after receiving financial support from the local authorities.

It gave no details of the extent of the support, or of the apparent liquidity problems it had encountered.

But banking sources said the central bank had provided it with one billion dirhams (\$275 million) and the government of Dubai another 300 to 400 million dirhams (\$80 to 110 million).

The authorities had also appointed a new four-man board of directors, with UAE minister of state for finance Mr. Ahmad Humaid Al Tayar replacing Mr. Abdul Wahab Galadari as chairman and three other leading local figures becoming directors.

The sources said Mr. Galadari was believed to retain a 46 per cent stake in Union Bank's 291.5 million dirham (\$80 million) issued capital.

The sources said Union Bank's problems had arisen partly from an excessive concentration of loans to individual shareholders, and from paying above-market interest rates to attract customer deposits in a highly competitive local market.

But the intervention of the central bank appeared to have put the Union Bank in a stronger position than for some time, as well as clearly demonstrating the authorities' determination to prevent bank collapses as it seeks to restructure the local banking scene.

The shortage of deposits has been exacerbated by the downturn in oil revenues, as well as the effects on business confidence throughout the Gulf of the Manakh crash and the continuing Gulf war between Iran and Iraq.

Many other banks in the emirates also had large proportions of their total loans out to individual directors and shareholders, a feature of the local banking scene the central bank is anxious to reverse as it seeks to impose greater discipline and maturity on the system.

The central bank has ruled that banks should lend no more than 5 per cent of total deposits to any one director and a maximum of 25 per cent to board members as a whole.

But banking sources say it is treading softly in enforcing the ruling, recognising the problems involved for the banks in restructuring their loan portfolios quickly.

Many borrowers have their funds tied up in long-term projects and would be unable to repay loans at short notice, they noted.

One emerging way round the problem is to arrange a series of back-to-back loans with other banks in the Gulf and elsewhere.

Under this scenario a bank with excessive loans to a director would lend funds to another which would lend them to another which would lend them back to the director, who could then partly repay the original bank.

His total borrowings could thus be spread over a greater number of banks and the original bank's director exposure reduced, thus satisfying the central bank's requirement.

But at every stage the interest rate would have to rise to provide a profit for each bank in the chain, with the net result that the director's overall interest payments would increase.

Bankers said extensive use of such a system would clearly create a complex web of possibly precarious debts. But they said it appeared the extent of the practice was limited at present.

THE BETTER HALF By Harris

"Do you have a laundry soap that makes husbands feel macho if they use it?"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LAWZT
PUPER
ENNKLE
YAWNAY

WHEN HE SAW THE COPS, THE ROBBER TOOK OFF AND LEFT HIS ACCOUNT TO DO THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: THE

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: HIKER FLOOD ENCAMP DELUXE
Answer: What she told her husband he had better do while on that fishing trip—DROP A LINE

Peanuts

YOU KNOW WHAT YOU SHOULD DO? YOU SHOULD WRITE A THANKSGIVING STORY...

It was a dark and stormy night...

Suddenly, a turkey rang out!

Mutt 'n' Jeff

MISTER YOU PASSED FOUR RED LIGHTS!

AND DON'T TELL ME YOU DIDN'T SEE THEM!

WELL, YES, I SAW THE FIRST ONE AND I STOPPED!

WELL, WHY DID YOU IGNORE ALL THE REST?

WELL, YOU KNOW HOW IT IS—WHEN YOU'VE SEEN ONE YOU'VE SEEN 'EM ALL!

Andy Capp

I MUST DO THAT BIT OF SHOPPING ON THE WAY HOME

HI-YER, PET. WHAT KIND OF A DAY HAVE YOU HAD?

LONG—!

STUCK HERE WITH NOTHING TO DO, IT'S ALL RIGHT FOR PEOPLE LIKE YOU, FLO, YOU'RE ON THE GO ALL DAY—YOU DON'T HAVE TIME TO GET BORED

SOME PEOPLE ARE BORN LUCKY

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1983

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: On the surface, there seems to be considerable agitation to get every single detail of any plan of action corrected. There is certainly the opportunity for one to use resourcefulness and ingenuity.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Gain the cooperation of partners for your plans by being kind with them instead of criticizing so much.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Be of some service to others and gain their cooperation for your ideas. Don't rely on your charm alone.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) By helping one who is close to bigwigs who support you, you gain greatly at this time. Find a new outlet for hidden talents.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) A cooperating partner can assist you in getting the backing you need from another so that you get projects finished.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Talk your ambitions over with a charming individual and get good advice from that source. Don't ask for favors.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Although business problems should not be brought home, take a family tie to dinner and get the help you need now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You are anxious to get much done with the aid of any outside partner. Schedule your time and plans wisely.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Seek the advice of a friend who is practical concerning some problem with another pal. Don't ask for financial help.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A progressive pal could assist you with some worrisome matter. Talk little and listen more for good results.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Search for the right answer to a problem that is deterring your progress and get it. Confide in a good advisor.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Go to see a bigwig and state your ambitions. You will get the right advice on how best to attain your goals.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Talk over with an expert how you can meet your obligations. Seek a new method you have not thought of.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will live a fine life. Be sure to teach early not to talk so much and alienate others by being a smart-aleck. Listening is a virtue that can bring greater success. Slant the education along the lines of selling, law or police work.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

THE Daily Crossword by Fran Ragus

ACROSS

1 Moch

8 Curtail

10 Government agent

14 Bay window

15 Nevada mecca

16 Passage

17 Song words

20 Gnaws

21 Mesh

22 Clumsy

23 Dread

25 Attitudinize

27 Wine

30 Separates by selection

34 Song words

36 Alphabet sequence

37 Suit to —

38 WWII family

39 House animals

40 Vessel, abbr.

41 Oslo, formerly

45 Clayware fragment

47 Of equestrians

48 Docile

49 Capacity measure

50 Lend — (listen)

53 Hymenopteron

54 Noted Italian

58 Song words

62 Concerning coins

63 Place for

64 Deplete

65 Mamie's maiden name

66 Church seats

67 Chits

DOWN

1 Arrive

2 Plane surface

3 Try to lose weight

4 Escapes

5 Slippery —

6 City on the Moselle

7 Tear

8 — and outs

9 Bon

10 Certain steaks

11 Grmaca

12 Take — (use the pool)

13 Cozy home

18 Maternally related

19 Catalogues

24 Lamprey or moray

25 Odds and

26 Hockey great

27 Brooch

28 Bingo's relative

29 Turn aside

30 Sedate

31 Agurles

32 Loosen

33 That is —

35 — Haute

39 Ornate garden

41 Map

42 Dress edge

43 Robber

44 Charged atom

46 Wagered

49 Annoying insects

50 Tart

51 Taboo

52 Light color

53 Toot

55 Use a stiletto

56 Tease

57 Ages and ages

59 Ureanus

60 — de France

61 Strange

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

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10 Government agent

14 Bay window

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WORLD

At least 176 die as Colombian Boeing 747 crashes in Madrid

MEJORADA DEL CAMPO, Spain (R) — At least 176 people were killed Sunday when a Colombian Airlines Boeing 747 carrying 189 people crashed minutes before it was due to land at Madrid Airport on a flight from Paris, officials said.

The Avianca airliner plunged out of the skies towards this small town near the capital and smashed into a muddy, ploughed field after veering to avoid houses, witnesses said.

It broke up into four sections and burst into flames and was still smouldering some four hours after.

Most of the 169 passengers on board the plane, on a flight from Frankfurt to Bogotá with scheduled stops in Paris, Madrid and Caracas, were French nationals, officials said.

They said there appeared to be about 13 survivors. One woman passenger staggered away apparently unhurt.

"I've never seen anything like it. It's the most grotesque thing I've ever seen," said Jose Maria Rodriguez Colorado, the civil governor of Madrid.

He spoke to reporters standing by a pile of some 50 badly burned

corpses which were covered with blankets.

Officials at Barajas Airport said everything was normal with the flight when an approach check was made 15 minutes before scheduled landing.

The control tower lost contact with the Boeing 747 four minutes before it was due to touch down on the runway some 12 kilometres west of here, they said.

Investigators at the crash site said they found the "black box" flight recorder which should help them to determine what happened.

Only pieces of the undercarriage, tail, nose and wings were distinguishable among the twisted wreckage.

Rescue teams, working under floodlights, said they were hampered by darkness and the lack of good access roads.

They were also hindered by hundreds of "gawkers" who rus-

hed from Madrid to view the carnage. Radio stations broadcast constant appeals for people to stay away.

The Spanish transport and interior ministers, Enrique Baron and Jose Burriel, were among officials at the scene.

"God what a sight," said a civil guard rescuer as he shone his torch onto a pile of bodies. A stench of charred flesh pervaded the area.

The unhurt woman survivor, identified as a 30-year-old South American, was picked up by a police patrol car muttering repeatedly "seven, four, seven," police sources said.

A three-year-old child also escaped without serious injury hospital officials said.

Former Colombian President Misael Pastrana Borrero was among the passengers who was to have boarded the plane in Madrid.

The flight originated in Frankfurt, from where it continued to Paris. After Madrid it had been scheduled to stop in Caracas before completing its journey to the Colombian capital.

Avianca planes had been involved in two previous accidents at Barajas, but neither caused any fatalities.

The crash was the worst aviation disaster in Spain since March 1977, when 585 people were killed in a runway collision of two Boeing 747s at Tenerife Airport in the Canary Islands.

That accident, involving planes of the Dutch airline KLM and the U.S. Pan American World Airways, was the worst in the history of commercial aviation.

The national Spanish news agency EFE quoted airport sources as saying that the crew had been preparing for an emergency landing when the plane came down.

The agency said the passengers had apparently been alerted and that firefighting units at Barajas airport were in place.

Wreckage was strewn across a three kilometre radius.

Rescue workers wore handkerchiefs around their faces to ward off the smell of burnt flesh.

The remains of the victims were borne off to a makeshift morgue in a hangar at the airport where experts were due to begin the slow process of identification.

As dawn broke, officials sealed off the entire area to ensure that nothing more was touched before investigators completed their work.

U.S. envoy to Salvador causes uproar

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Statements by the U.S. ambassador here that El Salvador has failed to tackle right-wing death squads drew angry accusations from businessmen Saturday that the United States was ignoring the activities of the left.

"Why does the liberal press and the United States always talk about the right-wing and make no mention of the constant attacks by the left-wing subversives?" said one leading businessman who declined to be named.

Ambassador Thomas Pickering told the business community Saturday night that death squads were "fascists serving the communist cause" through kidnappings and killings of leftist leaders.

He was afterwards accused by many businessmen of disregarding the thousands of deaths and millions of dollars of damage caused by left-wing guerrillas in the country's four-year-old civil war. Asked later why he put so much importance on the death squads, Mr. Pickering said: "The government are working hard on the left. I wish they would work as hard on the right."

He said a recent decision by U.S. Congress to cut President Reagan's military aid request for El Salvador was caused by resurgence of the death squad activities.

Thousands mark Aquino anniversary

MANILA (R) — Thousands of demonstrators wearing yellow shirts, caps, headbands and buttons Sunday turned out at a rally to mark the 31st birthday of assassinated opposition leader Benigno Aquino and demand the resignation of President Ferdinand Marcos.

The rally, in a park on the waterfront overlooking Manila Bay, was the climax of a week of anti-Marcos protests although it was only one of several planned for the anniversary of the former senator, who was shot on Aug. 21 at Manila Airport.

Hundreds of yellow balloons bearing Mr. Aquino's picture were released after speeches by members of his family, including his widow Corason, and opposition politicians, among them former President Diosdado Macapagal.

Also on the speakers' platform, a few paces from Mrs. Aquino, was Saturnina Galman, mother of Sen. Aquino's alleged assassin, Rolando Galman. She was taken there by her daughter, Marilyn, and her lawyer Lupino Lazaro.

She was seen to greet Mrs. Aquino in what is believed to have

been their first meeting but it was not immediately known what the two women said to each other.

Mrs. Galman's son, who police say was shot by guards seconds after he killed Sen. Aquino, was buried three weeks ago in the same cemetery as the man he is alleged to have murdered.

Police said about 20,000 people attended the rally in Rizal Park, named for the Philippines' national hero Jose Rizal who was executed by Spanish colonial rulers in 1896.

Independent observers said the crowd was bigger than at a demonstration marking the 11th anniversary of the imposition of martial law on Sept. 21. About 50,000 people joined that demonstration which turned into a major confrontation with the police. At least 11 people were killed and scores injured.

The only reported incident Sunday was when a man with a knife was spotted near the speakers' platform about 15 metres from Mrs. Aquino. Police said the man, identified as Rafael Ortonio, 24, was acting strangely but had not attacked anyone.



Fortune names notable products

NEW YORK (R) — Two personal computers, a chocolate chip cookie, and a contraceptive were among 11 objects named by Fortune magazine as America's most notable products for 1983. The computers were Apple's Lisa and International Business Machines' PCJR. Other high-tech products included Sony's digital laser compact disc player and a nuclear magnetic resonance machine for medical research that uses magnets to examine tissue and organs. A Procter and Gamble chocolate chip cookie was picked for its homemade biscuit taste for the mass market. The contraceptive cited was a 24-hour non-prescription sponge, clinically tested as 95 per cent effective. The magazine also singled out Eastman Kodak for an extremely fast 35mm colour print film which allows photographers to shoot under extremely low light without flash.

Python swallows 15-year-old boy

MANILA (R) — A 15-year-old boy was swallowed whole by a python he disturbed while searching a mountainside cave for bats, police in the central Philippines reported Sunday. They said other members of the Mangyan tribal settlement in Mindoro oriental province about 160 kilometres south of Manila managed to kill and slice open the snake but the youth, Ating Bangang, was dead.

Swiss court protects Lenin's cafe

ZURICH (R) — The owners of Zurich's celebrated Cafe Odeon, frequented by Lenin before World War I, have been ordered by the Swiss Supreme Court to preserve its original interior. Opened in 1911, the Odeon was a meeting place for the Dada painting movement which began in Zurich, and was popular with writers such as James Joyce, Thomas Mann, Stefan Zweig and Frank Wedekind. The spy Mata Hari performed as a dancer there in 1915. In 1972 the owners converted part of it for use as boutiques in a move which led to demonstrations and a conservation petition signed by 7,000 people.

No sign yet of missing U.S. airmen

NAPLES, Italy (R) — The U.S. navy has called off a search for two small transport planes missing in the Mediterranean since Friday. A spokesman said the seven crew members were presumed dead. The two C-119 Trader aircraft vanished on a routine flight Friday between Palma de Mallorca, Spain, and a U.S. naval base in Sicily. An Italian search team found two life-rafts about halfway between Palma and Sardinia and these were identified as coming from the aircraft, the spokesman said.

Seoul banker's trial to begin

SEOUL (R) — A former head of a leading South Korean bank and 28 other people will go on trial on Dec. 13 in connection with a multi-million dollar scandal, court officials said. The scandal, involving the Yongsong Development Company, led to the arrest last month of the then-president of the Cheongju Bank, Lee Hun-Seung, on charges of accepting bribes worth about \$250,000. Two top executives of the company, who are accused of illegally withdrawing more than \$200 million worth of bank funds in promissory notes, and 17 Cheongju officials are among those on trial.

Explosions shatter fireworks factory

BELLPORT, New York (R) — Explosions shattered a fireworks factory Saturday killing two people, injuring 23 and leaving four missing, police said. The blasts destroyed a dozen buildings and forced more than 300 neighbours to evacuate their homes, police said. Scores of windows in nearby houses were broken. The first explosion was in a warehouse at the eight-hectare Grucci complex.

Britain's biggest holdup leaves police clueless

LONDON (R) — Police Sunday hunted an armed gang which carted away three tonnes of pure gold from a security warehouse in Britain's — and probably the world's — biggest holdup.

The bullion and two boxes of diamonds also stolen were worth about £25 million (\$37.5 million), according to estimates given to detectives.

Invaders immediately offered a £2 million (\$3 million) reward for information leading to the recovery of the haul.

Six hooded men with pistols Saturday forced entry into the warehouse near London's Heathrow Airport to snatch the 6,000 gold bars despite electronic security devices, closed circuit television and floodlights.

It was the most daring heist in Britain since a gang in the so-called great train robbery grabbed £2.6 million from a mail train in 1963.

The gold, which carried a refiner's mark, could be easily melted down before being sold, probably in Europe, the informed sources said.

Police said there were similarities, such as spraying staff with petrol and threats of burning them, with a raid in April when a gang stole £7 million (\$10.5 million) from another London security group.

Britain's previous biggest cash robbery was a raid on a London branch of the bank of America in 1975 with loot of £8 million (\$12 million).

Union dispute stops U.K. Sunday papers

LONDON (R) — A dispute which has silenced Britain's national newspapers for the past two days threatened Sunday to present the Conservative government with the first major challenge to its new laws to curb trade union power.

The country's biggest white-collar union Saturday night pledged financial support for print workers in the National Graphical Association (NGA) who walked out on Friday night in protest over a court order to seize the NGA's assets.

The executive of the 784,000-member National and Local Government Officers Association (NALGO) said in a resolution it recognised the dispute as "part of the fight against the government's attempts to undermine union organisation."

The left-wing chairman of the opposition Labour Party, Eric Heffer, told a meeting Saturday that when union funds and property were taken under legislation intended to curb the unions, there was bound to be anger in other unions as well.

"On the question of a general strike that is a matter for the Trades Union Congress (TUC) and I cannot say what it would decide," Heffer said in the Midlands city of Birmingham.

The TUC, representing 10.5 million workers in affiliated unions, has so far given only moral support to the NGA. Some of its general council members are known to be reluctant to offer industrial backing.

Saturday the dispute deepened when owners of Britain's nine national daily papers agreed to sue the NGA for damages after a three-hour meeting of their representative body, the Newspaper Publishers Association.

An NPA spokesman said what he termed "flagrant breaches of contract" could not be tolerated by an industry whose financial viability was in doubt. He said losses this weekend were substantial.

The NGA, told of the employers' decision, said it was not surprised. The NGA, with assets of £10 million (\$15 million) could face a total damages bill up to £4 million (\$6 million).

The dispute stems from NGA support for six members dismissed from a local newspaper group in northwest England. The union has refused to pay court fines imposed for a form of "sympathy" picketing by other workers made illegal under new laws.

U.S. to review Chinese diplomat's asylum request

CHICAGO (R) — A Chinese diplomat remained in the custody of federal immigration officials after causing a jumbo jet to make an unscheduled landing in Chicago Friday with a demand that he be given political asylum.

Officials of the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) said it would probably be Monday before Gaojiao Yang's request for asylum was officially considered.

In Santa Barbara, California, White House spokesman Larry Speakes said the Reagan administration would review the case but that the final decision would be made by the INS.

Mr. Yang, who was flying to his

country's United Nations mission in New York with a second Chinese diplomat, got into an argument with the other diplomat after the plane left San Francisco.

The captain decided to land the airliner at Chicago to resolve the matter.

Federal officials negotiated with the two diplomats for more than three hours before Mr. Yang was escorted off the plane.

Officials said Mr. Yang had wanted to retain his diplomatic pouch, one of two aboard the plane. The second diplomat continued to New York with both pouches.

Irish guerrilla leader admits to 30 murders

DUBLIN (R) — The most wanted man in Ireland, Republican guerrilla leader Dominic "mad dog" McGlinchey, has admitted in an interview personally killing about 30 people in the past decade.

In a secret interview with the Sunday Tribune editor Vincent Browne, McGlinchey, head of the hard-line Irish National Liberation Army (INLA), denied any involvement in last Sunday's attack on a Protestant church in Northern Ireland in which three people died and for which he was widely blamed.

McGlinchey, 29, admitted having a hand in a bar bomb last December in Ballykelly, Northern Ireland, which killed 17 people, mainly off-duty British soldiers. Altogether he had been involved in over 200 bombings and shootings, he claimed.

McGlinchey denied he was behind last Sunday's raid on a Pentecostal Church, which he called

a purely sectarian attack for which there was no justification, though he indicated one of his men was responsible.

He said he had given a semi-automatic rifle used in the shooting to an INLA man for an attack on a member of the Protestant-loyalist paramilitary Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF).

McGlinchey claimed the INLA man had recently had a brother killed, "and he must have been unbalanced or something to have gone and organised this killing."

He was asked in the interview how many people he had killed. "Around the 30 mark, I would say."

Did he kill these personally? "Yes," was the reply.

All but one of the victims were members of the security forces, described by him as "agents of a repressive and violent state," while the other was an informer.

Bolivian official arrested

LA PAZ (R) — A Bolivian government official has been arrested and is under investigation for possible involvement in a bomb attack against Congress, Interior Minister Federico Alvarez Plata said Saturday.

Mr. Plata did not disclose the name of the official and would only say that he worked for the government's social action department. He told a press conference the official was arrested Friday while trying to flee in a jeep belonging to the department.

Rows of arms which Mr. Alvarez said were seized in the arrested man's home by police, were on display at the press conference.

Two days ago a powerful bomb exploded outside the Bolivian parliament causing extensive damage but no casualties. Mr. Alvarez said investigators were trying to establish if the arrested man was connected with the bombing as well as several others that have recently struck the capital.

Relations between President Hernan Siles Zuazo and Congress have deteriorated recently over controversial austerity measures introduced by the president last week.

New party backs Dhaka leadership

DHAKA (R) — A new political party in Bangladesh willing to back military ruler Hossain Mohammad Ershad as a presidential candidate in an election next year was launched here Sunday.

The country's figure-head president, Abusaid Choudhury, who became the convener of the "Jano Dal" (people's party), said it would support nationalism, Islamic ideals and values and democracy.

He said the party would also strive to ensure a role for the armed forces in running the national affairs.

"The armed forces must have a role in national development and reconstruction. It is imperative to ensure that their talents and skills are used fully for the welfare of the people," he told a workers meeting while announcing the party.

But he did not spell out how this role would be guaranteed in the suspended constitution, which Gen. Ershad has said he will soon restore.

The new party, which is expected to draw political figures from various parties, was announced a day before scheduled anti-government protests by two alliances representing 22 political parties.

President Choudhury said one of the new party's aims would be to unite the people to all shades and pursue a socio-economic development programme through mutual discussion.

The government, meanwhile, has banned any political rallies in the central Dhaka area and declared its main secretariat zone off-limits for demonstrations.

Shuttle-spacelab joint mission starts Monday

KENNEDY SPACE CENTRE, Florida (R) — The most ambitious international venture of the space age begins Monday when the shuttle Columbia blasts off from here carrying the billion-dollar European spacelab.

Columbia will have a crew of six including the first non-American member of a U.S. space team — a West German scientist.

The nine-day flight, ninth and longest of the shuttle programme, inaugurates a new era of cooperation between the United States and a consortium of West European nations comprising the European Space Agency (ESA).

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is supplying the space shuttle and five of the crew while ESA is providing one crewman and spacelab, a self-contained, computerised research module in which 70 scientific experiments will be conducted.

For the first time two men who are not fully-trained astronauts will be flying in space. Ulf Merbold, of the Max Planck Institute in West Germany and Brian Lichtenberg, from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), are on the crew only to carry out their scientific tasks.

The four other crewmen are trained U.S. astronauts.

The participation of the two non-astronaut scientists, called payload specialists because they are expert in working with the mission's scientific cargo, is a fulfilment of one of the major objectives of the shuttle programme — to make space available to the

"average" scientist. Both men have spent many years working with a number of researchers from universities and private companies so they can operate the experiments devised for the mission.

They are pioneers of a new breed of space travellers who will "commute" into space, do their work and return to earth, all without having to undergo the long, rigorous physical preparations required of astronauts.

The first flight of spacelab will also establish a new method for ground-based scientists to take advantage of the unique properties of space flight.

For the first time, researchers on the ground will be given the opportunity to maintain direct control of their experiments while their instruments are operating in orbit.

As Merbold and Lichtenberg carry out their scientific tasks, assisted by astronauts Owen Garriot and Robert Parker, they will frequently be in direct communication with the scientists who devised the experiments.

This will give the scientists on earth an unprecedented opportunity directly to monitor the experiments and to make suggestions taking full advantage of the circumstances as they arise.

More than 100 scientists from Europe, the United States, Canada and Japan will have access to a special communication complex at the Johnson space centre in Houston which will link them to the orbiting spacelab.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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ANSWERS TO BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠95 ♥83 ♦QJ107652 ♣K3
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1NT Pass 2♦ Pass
3♦ Pass ?

What action do you take?
A.—North's raise to three diamonds shows maximum no trump and either four diamonds to an honor or A-K-x. Since your side has a known source of tricks, it seems that three no trump should be a good shot.

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q1076 ♥A763 ♦KJ ♣K6
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♦ Pass 1♥ Pass
1NT Pass ?

What do you bid now?
A.—You could jump to three no trump, but that would be a lazy action. If partner has good three-card heart support, the hand might play better in that strain. You can check on partner's heart holding by bidding two spades. Since that is a reverse, it is forcing. It also guarantees a hand where the first-bid suit is longer than the second. Since partner knows you must have at least five hearts, he will surely raise hearts at his next turn if he holds three to an honor.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A985 ♥A76 ♦KQ83 ♣J2
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♥ Pass 1♠ Pass
2♦ Pass ?

What do you bid now?
A.—You certainly want to be in game, but which game? If you could be sure that partner has four spades, you could play in that strain. But there is a possibility that partner has five hearts and only three spades. You can cater to both possibilities by jumping to four hearts. Partner will correct to spades with four cards in the suit or

pass with five hearts and only three-card support for your suit.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠85 ♥97 ♦AQ9 ♣KQJ1054
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♠ Pass 2♠ Pass
2♥ Pass ?

What do you bid now?
A.—In terms of point count, your hand is probably only worth a rebid of two no trump. But that doesn't take into account the playing strength of the club suit. At the table, we would jump to three no trump. The unforfeitable sin is to rebid three clubs. That shows a long club suit and sub-minimum two-over-one response.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠KJ762 ♥A965 ♦QJ63
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♠ Pass 3♠ Pass
4♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?
A.—Partner has started a cue-bidding sequence, and it has done nothing to improve your hand — indeed, you have some duplication of values. Still, you have nothing to be ashamed of, and since you can cooperate with partner's slam efforts below the level of game, you should do so. Cue-bid four hearts.

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q7632 ♥874 ♦A94 ♣63
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
2♥ Pass 2NT Pass
3♦ Pass ?

What do you bid now?
A.—You were a whit too weak for a positive response after your first turn. Now, however, you are too good for a simple preference of three hearts. Our choice is a jump to four hearts.